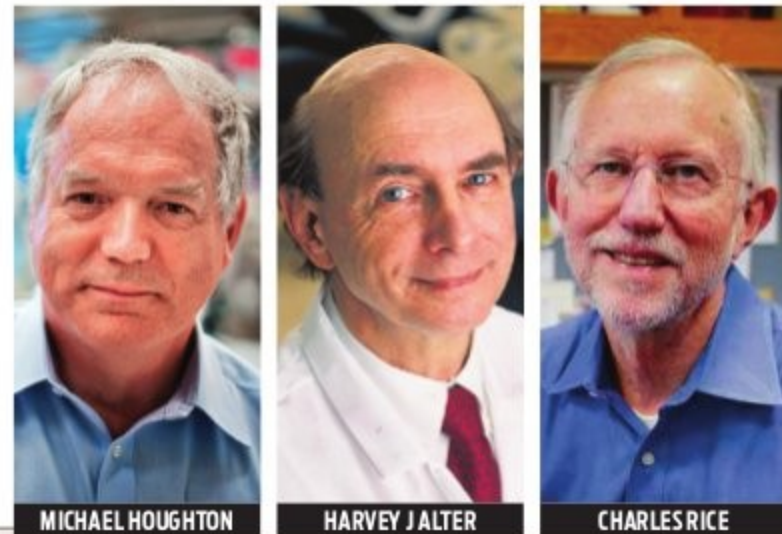




NOBEL MEDICINE PRIZE FOR HEPATITIS C VIRUS DISCOVERY

Harvey Alter, Charles Rice from the US and Michael Houghton from the UK won the Prize, the Nobel jury said on Monday

HELPED SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVES WORLDWIDE

The three virologists made a decisive contribution to the fight against blood-borne hepatitis. Their discovery of the Hepatitis C virus—a major cause of liver cancer and cirrhosis—made possible blood tests and new drugs that have saved millions of lives, the Nobel jury said. Their discovery also revealed the cause of the remaining cases of chronic hepatitis

HOW THE TRIO DISCOVERED THE VIRUS

- Alter studied hepatitis in patients who had received blood transfusions, determining their illness was neither Hepatitis A or B
- Houghton built on Alter's work to isolate the genetic sequence of the new virus. Rice then used genetic engineering to prove it was the new strain—Hepatitis C—that was causing the disease | P14

71mn

FACE CHRONIC HEPATITIS C INFECTION
WORLDWIDE, ACCORDING TO W.H.O.

Big compensation fight at GST Council, deal put off

10 non-BJP ruled states reject the borrowing options mooted by the Centre; apex panel to meet again on October 12 to resolve the issue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

EVEN after eight hours of marathon talks, the GST Council meeting on Monday could not break the stalemate over compensation as 10 Opposition-ruled states rejected the Centre's borrowing options to meet revenue shortfall. The Council will meet again on October 12 to resolve the issue.

However, states will get some immediate relief as the total compensation cess collected so far this year, ₹20,000 crore, will be disbursed by Monday night itself. The pending IGST dues of ₹24,000 crore will also be transferred to states by the middle of next week. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the compensation cess will be extended beyond the original deadline of June 2022 in view of the economic distress due to the pandemic.

In the last GST meeting, states were given two options to meet GST revenue shortfall—a special window arranged by the Finance Ministry to provide ₹97,000 crore at a nominal interest rate or borrow the entire gap in revenue shortfall of ₹2.35 lakh crore. Nirmala said 21 states have opted for the first option, while 10 states including Kerala, Telangana, and West Bengal, said the Centre should borrow and give the money to states.

In the meeting, Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac said the entire revenue shortfall of states needs to be compensated by the Centre. Later, he said in a Facebook post, "The Central government is just a member of the Council. Hence, the Council's decision on the issue should be made through a voting."

Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal said his state will not borrow money to meet revenue shortfall. If the Centre doesn't release full compensation, Punjab will adopt



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 42nd GST Council meeting via video conferencing in New Delhi on Monday | P11

KEY DECISIONS

- This year's compensation cess of ₹20K cr to be disbursed to states on Monday night
- Pending IGST of ₹24,000 crore to be transferred to states by the next week
- Compensation cess to be extended beyond the original deadline of June 2022

"all legal options", he warned. Telangana Finance Minister Harish Rao, too, rejected the Centre's borrowing options.

The Tamil Nadu government reiterated its demand for immediate release of dues in one instalment while agreeing to Option 1. "Our stance has consistently been that the Centre has a moral and legal obligation to pay compensation for the shortfall in GST collections," said Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Minister D Jayakumar.

Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath demanded the borrowing limit be increased by 2%.

Odisha had no issue to raise at the GST Council meeting held on Monday, as it had already accepted the first option.

With inputs from our bureaux in New Delhi, Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Bhubaneswar

Centre must release ₹25K cr to state: Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CONSIDERING the Covid-induced financial stress, the Centre should release the cess amount of ₹25,000 crore to the state that has been collected up to September 2020, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai told the GST Council on Monday. Taking part in the 42nd Council meeting, Bommai, in charge of GST Karnataka, spoke about the financial challenges faced by the states.

He welcomed the suggestion of the Centre to extend the cess collection beyond 2022 so that the entire compensation entitlement of the states could be given to them, which was the suggestion made by Karnataka earlier.

Bommai said, "Under option one, the earlier proposal had assumed the growth rate of 10% while calculating the loan amount. Karnataka had suggested that the assumed growth rate be reduced in the light of the prevailing situation. The Union government has proposed to cut it to 7%." P7

CC
The CBI raid on Shivakumar's house is another attempt to derail our bypoll preparations. I strongly condemn it.

Siddaramaiah,
Leader of Opposition

Congress leaders who are condemning the CBI raids, are not talking about violations by Shivakumar.

Nalin Kumar Katel,
BJP state president

The BJP has absolute majority in the assembly and bypoll results will not have any impact on the government.

Dr K Sudhakar,
Medical Education Minister

BJP denies it's politics of vendetta

The BJP has denied that the CBI raids on Congress state unit president D K Shivakumar and his family were "vendetta politics", and a "politically motivated" move to derail the bypoll preparations. Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said on Monday, "It is not correct to politicise the raids. Some people are trying to gain political mileage by doing this." Income-Tax and Enforcement Directorate officials had earlier conducted raids at Shivakumar's residence, and the CBI probe may be in continuation of investigations by the central agencies.

AHEAD OF BY-ELECTIONS, CBI RAIDS DK SHIVAKUMAR



KPCC president D K Shivakumar addresses supporters in front of his residence in Bengaluru, after the CBI raided 14 of his properties across the country on Monday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

IN a surprise move, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday conducted simultaneous raids at 14 locations linked to the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D K Shivakumar; his brother D K Suresh and excise baron and close associate of former Sachin Narayan, over the alleged "possession of disproportionate assets (DA) of around ₹75 crore, which are in his name and in the name of his family members," said CBI sources.

"The CBI raids were conducted at nine locations in Karnataka, five in Delhi and one in Mumbai subsequent to the registration of a case against Shivakumar and others under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988," said the officer. The Central anti-corruption agency has allegedly seized ₹57 lakh in cash, several incriminating documents including property papers,

bank-related information and computer hard disks during the day-long raids," the officer said.

The CBI sleuths arrived at Shivakumar's residence in Sadashivanagar early morning just when he was about to hold a preparatory meeting with election coordinators and booth managers for the forthcoming Assembly by-polls in Sirsa and RR Nagar in Karnataka on November 3, KPCC spokesperson Suraj Urs told *The New Indian Express*.

The timing of the CBI raids against the KPCC president was questioned by Congress leaders, who termed them a political witch-hunt by the BJP. "The CBI had registered a preliminary enquiry in March this year against Shivakumar and others in the DA case. Why did the agency wait for six months to take action? It is obvious that the raids have been timed ahead of the by-polls," said Congress insiders.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Agency raids a rude jolt for Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE CBI raids on KPCC president DK Shivakumar and his brother and party MP DK Suresh, ahead of by-polls to two assembly segments and four Council seats, came as a big jolt for the party and its leaders. Questioning the timing of the raids, Congress leaders termed it a political conspiracy to derail the party's by-poll preparations.

The raids were conducted at a time when Shivakumar and the party leaders were busy finalising candidates for the RR Nagar assembly segment, and working on a strategy to retain the seat represented by the party MLA before he resigned to join the BJP, besides winning Sirsa. In the past few days, Shivakumar has been holding back-to-back meetings with party leaders and organising protests against the state and Central governments. The party now faces the challenge of keeping up this momentum.

"The CBI raid on Shivakumar's house is another attempt to derail our bypoll preparations. I strongly condemn it," said Opposition leader Siddaramaiah. "BJP has always tried to indulge in vindictive politics and to mislead public attention."

State govt bans strikes by healthcare workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru



A technician collects a sample in Bengaluru on Monday | MEGHANA SASTRY

AS the Covid pandemic continues to rage, the Karnataka government on Monday banned protests or any form of disobedience by health workers across the state.

A notification issued by the government stated that disobeying or refusing to work entrusted by a superior officer in connection with Covid duty would attract penal provisions under the Karnataka State Civil Services (Prevention of Strikes) Act, 1966 (Karnataka Act No 30 of 1966).

The circular, signed by Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar, prohibits strikes, non-cooperation, disobeying or refusing work related to health services, non-submission of reports, non-compliance to orders issued by higher authorities by any public servant, health personnel, regular, contractual and outsourced employees of health department, in the interest of public health.

Health workers have been treating patients, putting their own lives at risk. But their certain demands were not met, triggering protests. CONTINUED ON: P3

TRUMP'S RECKLESS DRIVE-BY SETS A BAD PRECEDENT



President Donald Trump drives past supporters gathered outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda on Sunday | AP P11

Covid-positive US President Donald Trump did the unthinkable on Sunday, disregarding all disease management and quarantine protocols by briefly stepping out of the Walter Reed Medical Center where he is admitted

He drove by well-wishers, waving to them from behind the glass pane of his sealed car. Inside the car were at least two Secret Service agents wearing protective gear in the front seats, while Trump sat in the back

"This is insanity," tweeted Dr James P Phillips, a physician at Walter Reed. "Every single person in the vehicle during that completely unnecessary presidential drive-by has to be quarantined for 14 days," he tweeted

FOR A PATIENT WHOSE OXYGENATION LEVELS DIPPED BELOW SAFE LEVELS TWICE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, WAS ADMINISTERED SUPPLEMENTAL OXYGEN AND ADMINISTERED A STEROID, ATTEMPTING THEATRICALS, TRUMP STYLE, WAS NOTHING SHORT OF MADNESS

But such is his insecurity ahead of the November 3 presidential elections that he is resorting to knee-jerk reactions and hurting his cause in the process. He is now itching to get back to the White House

A WSJ report said his rapid antigen test was positive on Thursday itself but he did not disclose it and went ahead with a Fox interview. Later when his RT-PCR test, too, was positive, he could no longer put a lid on it

UP police see global plot, file 19 FIRs

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

AMID continuing outrage over the alleged gang-rape and murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras, the state police on Monday sought to turn the narrative by claiming to have unraveled an international conspiracy to foment caste conflict to defame the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh.

The police registered as many as 19 first information reports (FIRs)—some including sedition charges—and at least six persons, including two in Lucknow, have been arrested in the alleged plot.

Police sources said intelligence agencies indicated the involvement of organisations like Amnesty International, Popular Front of India, Social Democratic Party of India and workers and leaders of many mainstream political parties in the conspiracy. The police also claimed it had evidence of international funding to fuel the anger.

Prashant Kumar, ADG (Law and Order), claimed that a "conspiracy was hatched to push the state into caste turmoil." P10

EXPRESS READ TCS m-cap surpasses ₹10-lakh-cr mark

New Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday became the second Indian firm after Reliance Industries to attain a market valuation of more than Rs 10 lakh crore helped by a rally in its share price. The stock jumped over 7 per cent ahead of its board meeting later this week to consider a share buyback proposal.

Nawaz Sharif, others booked for sedition

Lahore: Pakistan's former PM Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam and other top leaders of the Opposition PML-N party were charged with sedition and other serious cases for allegedly conspiring against the army and judiciary, and inciting people against them. P11

WHO: 10% of people may have been infected

Geneva: The head of the World Health Organization said on Monday its 'best estimates' indicate that roughly 1 in 10 people worldwide may have been infected by coronavirus 'more than 20 times the number of confirmed cases'.

CM INTERVENES

Locked out, Army vets get back keys to flats



The flats which were allotted to Army veterans at Kodathi in Bengaluru

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

IN a shocking incident, 73 ex-servicemen who were handed over the keys to their flats under the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited at Kodathi were left homeless after the Corporation allegedly changed the locks without their knowledge.

When repeated pleas to the Chief Office, other politicians and officials went unanswered, over 350 veterans and their

families from across Karnataka staged a dharna on Monday and forced the corporation to hand over the new keys to some of them.

The protest was staged in front of Anand Rao Circle with ex-servicemen from Kolar, Mandya, Tumakuru, Bagalkot, Chitradurga and Belagavi taking part. By evening, the Chief Minister's Office intervened and ordered the corporation to hand over the new set of keys to the owners.

Col (retd) S S Rajan, Convenor, Military Veterans, said, "The issue dates back to 2010 when 173 ex-servicemen were allotted two BHK flats for Rs 9.89,872 in Kodathi panchayat. By 2019, all the veterans had paid the amount and the keys were handed over to 73 of them and a former BSF constable by March 2020."

Nagaraja, a veteran, said, "On June 3, those who were allotted flats went there to perform a joint Ganesh Puja." P5



TODAY'S IPL MATCH

MUMBAI VS RAJASTHAN

Rohit Sharma & Co are the inform side with their middle-order firing on all cylinders. Facing them in Abu Dhabi this evening is RR, who are showing some cracks after a confident start.

ODDS: MUMBAI 4/6 | RAJASTHAN 25/19

LIVE: STAR SPORTS1/HOTSTAR @ 7.30 PM



JEE ADVANCED RESULTS OUT, B'LURU BOY IS STATE TOPPER

Natl topper from Bombay zone, 2nd from Roorkee

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE JEE (Advanced) 2020 results, which were declared on Monday, saw Chirag Falor from Bombay zone top the Common Rank List (CRL) with 352 out of 396 marks, while Kanishka Mittal of Roorkee zone is the top-ranked female with CRL 17, obtaining 315 out of 396.

Bengaluru boy **Pranava Singhal**, who secured CRL 103, is the State topper, followed by Chaturvedi Talapaneni (also from Bengaluru) with a rank of 149. Many students from Expert College in both Kodialbail and Valachil and from other parts of Karnataka qualified for the JEE Advanced exam. Supriya H secured 345th rank in ST category while Chirag G Pujar got 710th Rank in ST Category. Shashank P got Rank 2512.

State topper Pranava, a student of National Public School at HSR Layout, said, "Before you sleep, plan your next day so that you don't have to spend time deciding." Confused about whether to take electronics or computer science, Pranava is now looking forward to joining either IIT Bombay or Madras. Interestingly, Pranava is already into IISc Bengaluru, but is now choosing IIT.

"I prefer applied sciences instead of pure science subjects, so it was easy to choose," he said. He also added that despite the protests against conducting the exams, he could focus on his preparations.

Among other top scorers in the General Category, Rishad Shetty secured Rank 3031, Vibha Karnad (4112), Anush Babu Shetty (5337), Varun Gowda A B (5388), Aniket Lokesh Hegde (6549), Prajith Jayarajan (12767), Vivek K S (17386), Manojkumar Bellatti (23881).

Rakshita D Bhirade (2208), Vybhav D Bellary (4040) in SC Category, Bhuvan NM (2229), Akshay GH (5978), Nadiya (7537) in OBC Category and Kashinath Patil has secured Rank 3086 rank in EWS category.

All these students are eligible for admission to various IITs across the country.

This year, a total of 1,50,838 candidates appeared in both papers 1 and 2 where 43,204 students qualified the exam, conducted between September 1 and 6. A total of 6,707 were females.

According to the statistics provided by the ministry of education, the attendance figure dipped from 94.32% in the January session exam to 74% in the April-September exam. The April session exam was postponed twice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Based on the JEE Mains Results 2020, 2.45 lakh candidates were eligible to appear for the JEE Advanced 2020 exam. However, only 1.5 lakh candidates registered for the examination, which is an entry gate to IITs.

JEE Advanced 2020 marksheet contained the aggregate marks obtained by a candidate. The aggregate marks in JEE (Advanced) is the sum of the marks scored in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics.

CLAT merit list out today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CONSORTIUM of National Law Universities (NLU) published its consolidated merit list of CLAT (Common Law Admission Test) on Monday. However, the list with only registration numbers of candidates is out for students to access their results.

To expedite the admission process, which is supposed to complete by October 15 as per the Supreme Court direction, the consortium has scheduled the counselling registration process for more than 2,500 seats in the 23 National Law Universities on October 6, from 9 am, instead of 12 noon, Prof Balraj Chauhan, Convener, CLAT 2020, told *TNIE*.

Students whose names appear on the counselling list that the consortium publishes at 9 am on Tuesday, will be eligible to participate.

CLAT SCHEDULE

- OCT 5:** Counselling registration
- OCT 9:** Publication of first allotment list
- OCT 9-10:** Candidates will either lock their seat and upload documents and pay fees to NLU or apply for upgrade and submit documents and pay fees to NLU or exit admission process
- OCT 11:** Second Allotment list published
- OCT 11-12:** Candidates will lock seat or apply for upgrade or exit admissions
- OCT 14:** Publication of Third and Final List
- OCT 14-15:** Candidates will lock seat or exit admissions



Regular and Express trains

₹525

₹750

a Superfast Express train

COST OF A SINGLE TICKET BETWEEN BENGALURU AND MYSURU

₹35

₹65

₹80

on passenger train

Mail/Express train

Superfast & special trains

Passengers want season tickets on Mysuru trains

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE Covid-19 special train pair between Bengaluru and Mysuru, later changed to run to Chamundi Express timings to suit those commuting for work, has picked up occupancy and now hovers around an average of 60%.

However, the non-acceptance of season tickets and the maximum limit of 12 reserved tickets per month permitted by IRCTC is making the trips a costly affair, say commuters.

At present, six pairs of Covid-19 specials connect the two cities. The daily trains are Hampi Spl; Golgumbaz Spl, KSR Bengaluru-Mysuru Spl (Raja Rani

Exp timings) and KSR Bengaluru-Mysuru Spl (Chamundi Exp timings). The KSR Bengaluru-Mysuru Central Spl via Mysuru is run thrice a week and Jaipur-Mysuru Exp Spl via Bengaluru twice a week.

S Yogendra, member, Mysuru Grahakara Parishat Users, said that since only those with reserved tickets are permitted to travel, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) needs to give some relaxation as a good number commute daily to work between the two destinations as well as the cities en route.

"The IRCTC permits only a maximum of 12 tickets to be booked a month online for those whose accounts are linked to Aadhaar cards. It is only 6 tickets for accounts not linked. On the rest of the days, a person who commutes daily for work has to queue up at PRS counters to book them," he said.

Again, the cost works out to Rs 80 one way between Bengaluru and Mysuru since season tickets are not allowed on these trains. Passenger trains which cost Rs 35 for a one-way ticket are not operational. "Garment workers and in the organised sector now

spend up to 30% of their earnings on commuting," Yogendra said.

Priya Shetty, PRO, Mysuru Railway Division, said, "The occupancy has really improved for the Spl train numbered 06503/06504 which runs to Chamundi Express timings."

On the possibility of allowing season tickets on board the special trains, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager A N Krishna Reddy said, "The ministry in consultation with the Railway Board is increasing the number of special trains to cater to the requirements of commuters and might consider this in future."



BBMP Marshals ensure that people follow the mandatory protocol of wearing masks, near SP Road in Bengaluru on Monday. They are penalising violators Rs 1,000, or arresting them if they refuse to do so | **MEGHANA SASTRY**

EXPRESS READ

BBMP's Monday blues

Bengaluru: BBMP's revenue and public relations officials suffered the Monday blues, spending the better part of their day countering fake news that a road had been renamed after the late singer S P Balasubramaniam. Many people began posting messages of appreciation for the BBMP and State government for naming a road near Corporate Circle after the legendary singer, prompting the Palike to set the record straight and say that no such thing had occurred. A BBMP revenue official said that to change the name of a road, or rename it to honour someone, it had to be mooted in the Council. However, there is no such proposal, the official said. **ENS**

GOING VIRAL

Trying to get Covid immunity, mushroom-eaters throng institute

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE pandemic has launched a scramble for immunity-boosting foods, and mushrooms remain the popular choice for many, leading to an increase in the demand for Ready to Fruit bags which are used to grow them in households.

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research

(IIHR) say they are getting an increasing number of requests for Ready to Fruit bags, but it has had to stop the sale to individuals due to a shortage in the supply of paddy straw, which is crucial to the cultivation of mushrooms.

"Mushrooms are a good source of energy and nutrition. They help build immunity. During the lockdown, in addition to small-scale farmers and home-

makers who regularly bought bags from us, new consumers approached us. Initially, we helped and sold some, but we have now stopped the sale of bags to urban homemakers due to shortage of paddy straw," Dr Meera Pandey, Principal Scientist, Mushroom Research Lab, ICA- IIHR told *TNIE*, adding that Oyster,

Shiitake and Milky mushrooms are the most sought after.

Paddy straw, which is used in the lab, is procured from Tamil Nadu. But supply remains disrupted due to the lockdown and transport restrictions, affecting IIHR's production of mushrooms and its sales of ready-to-fruit bags. Between April and September, IIHR sold 1,000 bags, half of what it sold the previous year for the same period.

Dr Meera said generally IIHR sells about 40 tonnes of mushrooms a year with a 20-days waiting period, and this year, though demand has increased, they are unable to meet it.

To address this, IIHR is supporting NGOs such as People's

Trust in Rajanukunte, the Ramakrishna Mission in Anekal and Rotary Club, which plans to set up a cultivation unit in Kolar district. It began the process of supporting NGOs and self-help groups last year, by training people of tribal communities in BR Hills and around Bannerghatta forests in mushroom cultivation and also helped them set up facilities. However,

the tribals there could not do much as the lockdown affected cultivation.

Now, the institute is also asking farmers and institutions interested in fungiculture to obtain straw directly from paddy farmers to meet the demand for mushrooms. Demand for IIHR's mushrooms is also coming from small and large scale farmers in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

06th October: The coming Sun-Neptune pattern is excellent, if a little vague. In one of my old books I read that 'very many writers and artists have this combination and there are also many followers of the way of mysticism, as well as philanthropists and humanitarians'. It adds that 'horses are particularly liked'!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Once you have opened your mouth, it's very difficult to go back on what you have said. So, if you have told someone you love them, or that you really don't like them after all, you may have to live with the consequences! You might be better off keeping your thoughts to yourself.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Some of you are already experiencing the shot of energy that comes from Mars, the planet of action and aggression. Over the next five weeks you should always remember that being assertive requires that you consider other people's interests equally with yours.

GEMINI (May 22 - Jun 21)

For the next few months your life and feelings will probably be dominated by events which have already occurred. This means that the better you understand everything that took place over the last month, the better you'll manage the future. It's simple really!

CANCER (Jun 22 - Jul 23)

You may have all the best ideas, but partners have the emotional edge. In fact, in some strange way they may even be able to use your old tricks against you! If you should be caught out, remember to smile. Oh, and be sure to have a convincing story ready!

LEO (Jul 24 - Aug 23)

This week's planetary set-up is certainly a powerful one, and if you are to do your best, you should dedicate today to the virtues of hard work and self-discipline. Get as much accomplished as you can in order to make space for coming social invitations.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

There are so many contradictory planetary patterns that you are likely to wonder if you have backed the wrong horse. Please realise that any feelings of indecision, or even of panic, are triggered by a multiplicity of choice. There might just be too much on offer!

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

There does seem to be a great deal of travel looming. So strong are these influences over the next few months that even if you stay where you are and never venture out, strangers and people you haven't seen for years will be turning up at your door. There could be some pleasant surprises.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Domestic spending is still seems to be very important, and could be so for the next few weeks, if not months. If you're buying, selling or renting, you may have to alter your plans several times before the final move is played. But then, your own dreams for the future are also shifting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

What transpires now, in the aftermath of the last eclipse, is bound to turn a number of close relationships upside down. Today's concerns may focus on your emotional security: does someone still feel about you the way you feel about them? If so, get in touch!

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You may have had it all your own way recently, but the cards are stacked in your favour today, even though you may be slightly uncomfortable, perhaps with a feeling that there's too much emotion around. At least you have an opportunity to your way at home - so use it!

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The best thing you can do today is listen to your conscience, and also explore your day-dreams. You see, there's a good chance that the answers to current questions are to be found within, deep in your soul, not in the outside world. A spot of navel-gazing could be a good idea.

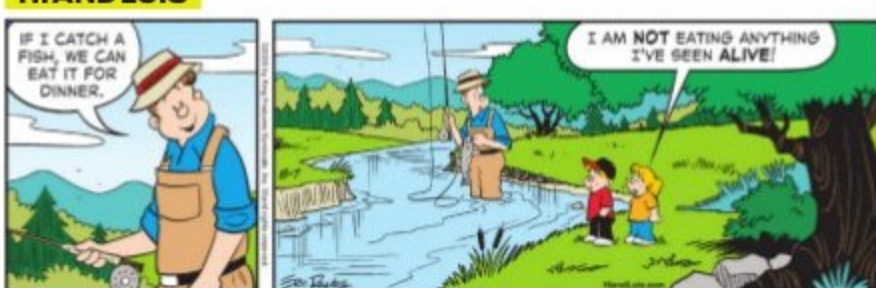
PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

One of the great debates that permeate your life is whether underlying principles are important, or if you should allow yourself to be guided by trivial and superficial expectations. Sort this out and a whole range of problems will fall into place.

THE PHANTOM



HI AND LOIS



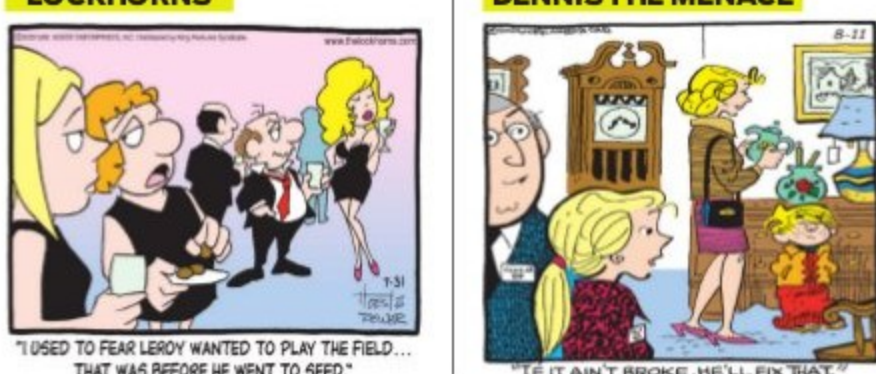
BEETLEBAILEY



BLONDIE



LOCKHORNS



DENNIS THE MENACE



Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SU DO KU

8	3		7		1		
5					7		
1			5	8	9	6	
1	5	6	7		9	2	
9					5		
2	7		5	3	1	4	
8	2	7	4		3		
	4					1	
3			2	6	4		

MEDIUM

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

1	2	9	8	5	4	3	6
7	3	8	4	2	6	1	9
4	5	6	3	1	9	7	8
3	8	2	1	5	7	9	6
6	4	1	2	9	8	5	7
9	7	5	6	3	4	8	2
8	1	3	9	4	2	6	5
5	6	4	8	7	3	2	1
2	9	7	5	6	1	3	4

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NIRLE

LAZWT

DMARDE

RNESOM

Yesterdays

Jumbles: UPPER

Answer: To eat the seagrass, the manatees — GRAZED IT

TANGY

ZODIAC

FIASCO

(Answers tomorrow)

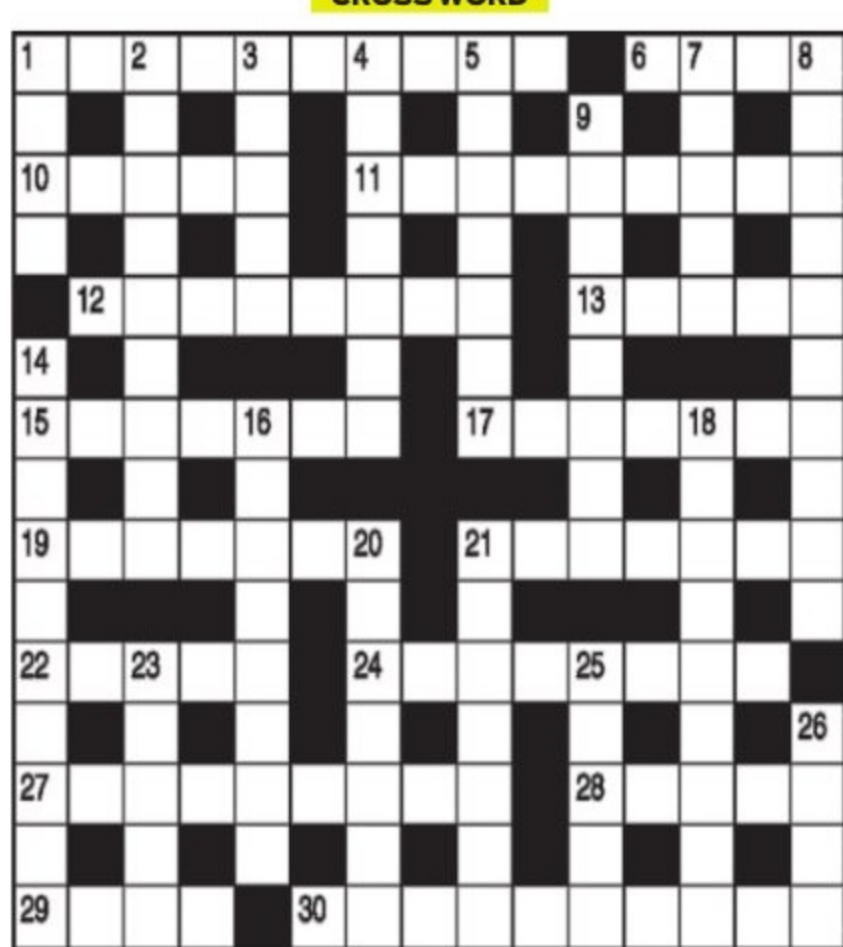
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE DOCTOR HAD A ROUGH, CALLOUS BEDSIDE MANNER. BUT HE WAS...

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CROSS WORD



ACROSS

- Best part of a collection of horse nails (5,5)
- The money's right as well (4)
- Unfortunately the lady's upset (5)
- No good at all for use in a riot (9)
- You do what you like with it (4,4)
- The very bottom of a broken dam (5)
- Variety of red rose seen in church (7)
- Record-holders (7)
- Demand its sins be found out (7)
- The case of the diplomat's aide (7)
- Fall into part of the main current (5)
- A bit over-developed and not at all successful (8)
- Found to be less habit-forming (9)
- There may be a few (5)
- Young leader in wild set makes painful sight (4)
- Break a way from the craft (5,5)

DOWN

- Girl in glasses (4)
- Military command to requisition weapons (5,4)
- Pen has the French way of writing (5)
- They take the blow and shake in panic (7)
- Lots may be held in them (7)
- Audibly permitted (5)
- Sweets I'd served up in a grievous condition (10)
- A wing consisting of ten parts (8)
- First trace I organise for craftsmen (10)
- Give an account of French writer (8)
- Eve's vicar is upset when the order's changed (4,5)
- Servile as East Europeans? (7)
- One more metamorphosis on earth (7)
- She's out in a yacht (5)
- Everything unqualified (5)
- Present her with a key (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Ordeals, 5 Elbow, 8 Sugar beet, 9 Rod, 10 Trap, 12 Adhesion, 14 Regain, 15 Strand, 17 Sunshade, 18 Pets, 21 Ski, 22 Cigarette, 24 Sharp, 25 Overall.
Down: 1 Onset, 2 Dog, 3 Airs, 4 Steady, 5 Entreaty, 6 Barricade, 7 Widened, 11 Argentina, 13 Nightcap, 14 Resists, 16 Adagio, 19 Swell, 20 Free, 23 Tea.

High rates force Covid dialysis patients to miss their sessions

Equipment, manpower, PPE kits add to cost; skipping treatment leads to complications

IFFATH FATHIMA@Bengaluru

DOCTORS have observed a disturbing trend: Covid-positive patients who require dialysis are skipping sessions as the cost of a Covid dialysis unit is much higher than normal dialysis unit in private hospitals. People with kidney-related ailments and other comorbidities, like diabetes and hypertension, are at high risk of contracting Covid-19, making things worse. Doctors say this is a matter of concern now.

Niki Thomas (name changed), 47, who had been undergoing dialysis for some time, recently tested Covid-positive. She was admitted to a private hospital for treatment, but when she realised that the cost of dialysis was exorbitant, she started missing her sessions. She told hospital authorities she couldn't afford it: dialysis for a non-Covid patient varies between Rs 3,000 and Rs 5,000, but costs over Rs 10,000 for a Covid patient.

There are many more pa-



Covid positive dialysis patients are skipping sessions due to high cost | EXPRESS

tients like Niki, who are avoiding dialysis, leading to complications.

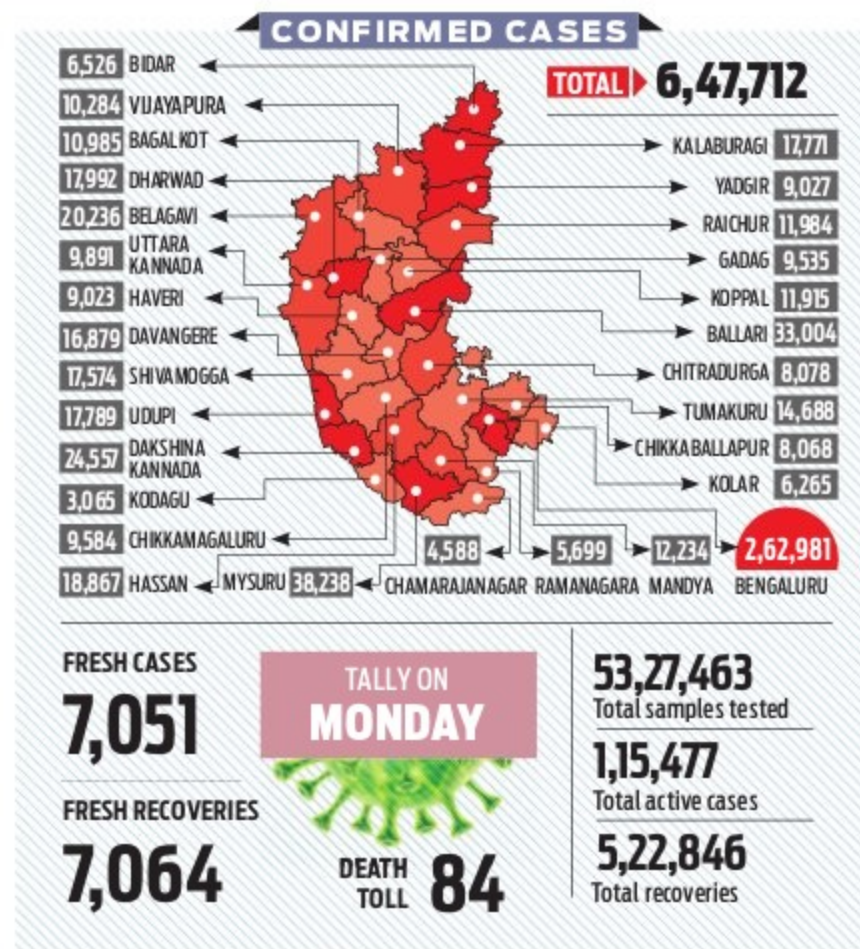
Dr Suri Raju V, managing director and chief urologist, Regal Hospital, admitted that the cost of dialysis for Covid patients is high, and many are skipping sessions. He said manpower and equipment costs go up, and the effort of doing one Covid dialysis is equal to five or six regular dialysis. "More manpower is re-

quired, and the technicians have to be paid higher fees. Maintenance is higher too. A dialyser is used for five or six dialysis for normal patients, but the one used for a Covid patient cannot be used again. With many patients avoiding treatment, we capped the cost at Rs 10,000 for Covid patients," he said.

Dr GK Prakash, consultant nephrologist, Manipal Hospitals, Malleswaram, said, "Dial-

ysis patients are at higher risk as they are immuno-compromised, and such patients tend to harbour the virus for a longer time, if affected. Our dialysis unit costs Rs 7,000-8,000 for Covid outpatients, and between Rs 11,000 and Rs 15,000 for Covid in-patients. Patients who skip regular sessions come in with fluid overload and need intensive sessions. Rates go up in a private hospital mainly because of isolation, staffing and usage of PPE kits by the entire team."

According to Dr Jagadish Hiremath, CEO, Ace Suhas Hospital, "We have observed that cost is a deterrent, leading to patients missing dialysis and needing intensive care later. We strongly advise patients on dialysis to take extra precautions to avoid contracting coronavirus, as prevention is the best bet now. Family members of patients should also take precautions as there have been instances of family spread from asymptomatic patients."



EXPRESS READ

Testing drops, and so does the caseload

Bengaluru: From testing 80,000 to 90,000 Covid samples a day, Karnataka reduced testing to 67,303 on Sunday, which could have been the reason for the state to record only 7,051 positive cases. The case tally now stands at 6,47,712. Karnataka, which had kept its active cases below 1 lakh, is seeing an increase in the number of active cases, which now stand at 1,15,477. The state is in second position after Maharashtra in terms of active cases. The number of deaths recorded was 84, bringing the total Covid deaths to 8,370. The state has a high discharge rate, with 7,064 discharges on Monday, bringing the total to 5,22,846. ENS

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE

Shivamogga village locks itself in, to keep corona out

B THIPPERUDRAPPA
@Chikkamagaluru

NO one can enter or exit Pillenahalli village in Kadur taluk. While the state and central governments are battling the pandemic, this village quietly went into a 20-day voluntary lockdown on Saturday. Pillenahalli with a population of over 5,000 people and 1,000 houses decided on the lockdown after

four Covid-19 deaths and a surge in the cases.

It was around this time that Sirigere Taralabalu seer Sri Shivamurthy Shivacharya swamiji spoke to district BJP president H C Kalmuradappa over phone suggesting a voluntary lockdown.

P K Rudrappa, village leader, then convened a meeting and the village decided on the self-imposed restrictions fearing

the spread of the virus to the neighbouring villages and also keeping in view the safety of the residents.

Gram Panchayat president P N Ramesh said that they decided to abide by the seer's advice and they had understood the message --- "Livelihood only if one is alive".

The lockdown will be in force from 10 am to 6 pm. Barring emergencies, no one is allowed to step out of their houses during this time and there can be no house-to-house contact either. No big functions or meetings are allowed.

Shop owners have voluntarily agreed to close shops after 10am. However, essentials like milk and vegetables are made

available between 7am and 10 am. Since most of the villagers are farmers, they can continue their farming activities wearing a mask.

Relatives from other villages will not be allowed.

Pillenahalli junior health assistant Mohankumari said that on the direction of the DHO, two health camps were conducted during which 40 people tested positive.



A street in Pillenahalli deserted as villagers choose to stay indoors



XPRESS FOCUS

INSIGHTSIAS, headquartered in Bengaluru, is an initiative of Insights Active Learning. www.insightsonindia.com is one of the leading educational websites in India, pioneering innovations into the field of Civil Services Exam preparation. INSIGHTSIAS has revolutionized the way aspirants prepare for their exams by making available quality content on its website, free of cost to lakhs of IAS aspirants across the country. It is ranked as one of the most visited websites by the IAS aspirants in the country, with Alexa Ranking of 312 in India. Its **founder, Vinay G. B** speaks about the module, the methodology followed and his future plans.

Tell us about your institute and the idea behind starting?

Insights IAS, popularly known as InsightsOnIndia because of our website www.insightsonindia.com is an UPSC training institute with its head office at Bangalore.

It is a pioneer of sorts. It was started as a personal blog in 2006, but was converted into UPSC IAS preparation website in 2013. We introduced free answer writing exercises online where any IAS aspirant sitting in any part of the world could prepare for the exam with confidence.

Our website has decentralised preparation for the UPSC civil services exam. Our initiatives have given hope and confidence to lakhs of students who live in remote parts of the country without much resources to afford coaching from cities like Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai. Today most online websites are modelled keeping ours as a benchmark.

The idea behind starting our website was to simplify and give clear-cut, no nonsense guidance to UPSC IAS aspirants through online mode. Considering there were lakhs of poor aspirants who needed a means to realise their dream of getting into coveted civil services jobs was our biggest motivation. Despite being in existence for more than 7 years, every content provided on our website is open and free for all. Thousands of toppers have benefited from our initiatives and have acknowledged the same.

Today the major challenge is to maintain consistency in what we do. Due to competition and pervasive piracy, sometimes it gets difficult to maintain momentum. The website is cross-subsidised

'CIVIL SERVICES EXAM CAN BE CRACKED WITH RIGHT GUIDANCE AT THE RIGHT MOMENT'



through revenue generated from test series programmes. Piracy affects revenue generation. Despite challenges we are doing what we are doing due to our innate concern for the aspirants.

Today, our website receives more than 1.5 lakhs unique visitors and we have thousands of offline students in Bangalore, Delhi and Hyderabad centres. We have given Rank-1 in 2016, Rank-3 in 2017 and Rank-5 in 2019. Hundreds of our students have become IAS and IPS officers today thanks to their hard work and our guidance.

What are the types of Civil Service posts under UPSC? UPSC conducts civil services examination every year for 22 posts which includes 3 all India services i.e. IAS, IPS and IFS (Indian Forest Service).

Other 19 services are central services of which prominent ones are IFS (Indian Foreign Service) IRS (Indian Revenue Service) etc. One can find details here: https://www.upsc.gov.in/sites/default/files/Notification-CSPE_2020_N_Engl.pdf

Why is there a sudden increase in the number of students who are interested in writing UPSC exams?

Nearly one million people are preparing for this exam and their numbers are ever increasing. Of these 4-5 lakhs take the preliminary exam every year. The spurt in the interest to pursue civil services is due to joblessness, more awareness created by online platforms, decentralisation of information by websites like InsightsIAS, accessibility of coaching through online



mode, Covid - 19 which has enabled many youth to find more time to pursue online courses, increase in aspiration because of increased educational levels among others.

How many students have successfully enrolled and passed out with flying colours since inception?

We started our first offline batch with 40 students in 2014 with a unique test based approach. Of these 40 students, around 15 stayed back. From this batch we got 5 ranks including 4 ranks in Top 100. Since then we have delivered

hundreds of ranks including 160+ ranks in CSE-2019. From our website, hundreds of toppers have benefitted whose data we don't collect. However, most of them have acknowledged and written lengthy success stories on our website.

How did you manage during the Covid-19 pandemic?

Covid made us get closer to the aspirant community. Because we understood that covid affected each and everyone, we came up with many more initiatives to boost their confidence and maintain them at high levels. We started YouTube videos to help them prepare even better from home. As most of them started preparing from home, which is a difficult task to do due to distractions and commitments, we through our outreach programs helped them stay consistent.

Tell us about the unique methodology followed by you all throughout.

All our initiatives are focused towards pushing candidates to adopt active learning during their preparation. Instead of passively reading a source or material, aspirants are motivated to solve questions and write answers on a regular basis through our daily exercises. This unique idea which was made available for free of cost has helped many to crack this exam sitting from home. Coming to offline, our test based approach which gave students a prior detailed timetable that was intensive and well designed to help them do self-study was a game changer. Our intensive test series regime where individual attention is given to every aspirant is our USP.

How have you been able to

stay afloat considering the tough competition in this sector?

We have been able to stay on top because of unconditional support and love shown by our followers. This has been possible due to our consistent efforts that are sincere and aspirant-centric. Add to this stellar results which have created a brand name of InsightsIAS throughout India. We have realised that when we do things without expectation, we get huge support and rewards too.

The competition is intense. However, we have focused only on what we can do best rather than spending time and energy on what others are doing. We have invited every type of competition as a source of inspiration to do better to help aspirants realise their dreams. The success is mainly also due to our team of hardworking experts who are working in sync with our core ideology of simplifying IAS exam preparation.

How challenging is it to source qualified and 'wave-length-matching' faculty members?

It's not that challenging as there is plenty of talent pool available. Because of our own relationship with our past students, who have given multiple UPSC interviews and were almost successful, it's easy to train and find best minds to guide UPSC aspirants. We follow the principle that only those who have been through this rigorous process and were almost successful can guide aspirants better. All our team members have graduated from reputed institutions and have given at least 2-3 interviews or written multiple Mains exam. They innately understand problems

faced by aspirants and respond to them sincerely.

What are your future plans in terms of expansion and introduction of new courses?

Our future plan is to open offline centres in remote areas to take the best guidance available and train aspirants better to help them get into these coveted services. We have plans to set up centres in Srinagar or Jammu, Shillong or Guwahati and Ranchi.

Coming to initiatives, we have always adapted to the demand of the exam and have provided updated and qualitative content and guidance to our students. We want to stay one step ahead and continue to be the pioneers we have been.

Your advise to UPSC aspirants.

Cracking the UPSC civil services exam is not tough anymore. What it requires is a tough candidate who is disciplined, humble, respectful, intelligent, curious and hard-working. The exam per se can be easily cracked by opting for the right guidance at the right moment. An aspirant must realise that this exam not only tests one's intellect, but also tests one's integrity and individuality. One must be original in thinking and clear in their priorities. One should be dedicated to the cause he/she has chosen.

One must be unwavering in their faith, in their own abilities and in the ability of their teacher/mentor/institution. One should have a temperament of enjoying this whole preparation process without treating it as a burden. If one remains calm and relaxed while doing justice to their preparation, anybody can crack this exam.

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Sriramulu to meet contract workers today

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

EARLIER, ASHA workers staged a protest demanding an honorarium of Rs 12,000 and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits. The strike was called off after the government assured them the demands would be met. But it has been over two months and their demand-shave still not been fulfilled.

On September 15, doctors under the banner of Karnataka Government Medical Officers Association struck work, stopping all online and offline release of Covid and non-Covid data and demanded pay parity with their counterparts in the Medical Education Department or pay revision as per the Central Government Health Scheme. After ministers addressed their demands, they called off the strike.

On September 24, 30,000-plus Karnataka State Health and Medical Education Department Contractual and Outsourced Employees Association members protested, demanding job security, wage parity with permanent health staff etc. "Health Minister B Sriramulu has called a meeting on Tuesday. Based on the discussion we will decide what to do next," said a KSHCOEA member.

DKS CRIES VENDETTA POLITICS OVER CBI RAIDS

KPCC president calls it a pressure tactic before the upcoming bypolls, says he won't be deterred

Congress leaders question timing of CBI raids, call them "political witch hunt" by the saffron party

DKS was in ED custody from Sept 3 to 17, 2019, and in judicial custody later; was released on Oct 23

POINT OF VIEW

CBI raids on opposition leaders by the ruling government have become a common thing in the last few years. The CBI had raided the residences of JDS supporters and candidates during 2019 Lok Sabha elections as well.

Unfortunately, the CBI is targeting only the leaders of a particular political party

Former minister and JDS leader HD Revanna

The CBI is doing its work. If the Congress leader is clean, he should cooperate and tell the truth. Is Shivakumar's economic growth natural as his assets grew from Rs 75 crore in 2008 to Rs 250 crore in 2013 and Rs 840 crore in 2018? He ought to respond to the CBI

BJP National Gen Secy CT Ravi

The raid is a clear indication that the BJP is staring at defeat and hence wants to hit the morale of the KPCC chief who is leading the poll battle.

However, the Congress cannot be bogged down with such tactics. The party stands solidly with Shivakumar

KPCC spokesperson UT Khader



KPCC president D K Shivakumar addresses media persons following the CBI raids on his and his brother, Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh's properties, in Bengaluru on Monday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CONGRESS State unit Chief D K Shivakumar on Monday deemed the CBI case and searches conducted at his residence as 'continuation of BJP's vendetta politics' against him.

Recounting a timeline of such cases and raids against him since 2017 when he hosted MLAs from Gujarat ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections, Shivakumar said, "In 2017, the Income Tax department conducted such raids at 87 places while I was hosting Congress MLAs from Gujarat; in 2018, the Economic Offences Court directed for a case to be booked against me; in 2019, the Enforcement Directorate booked me and put me in Tihar jail, and now in 2020, CBI is conducting raids against me. This is purely politically motivated. I am ready to cooperate and will appear for questioning whenever I am asked to," he said.

Shivakumar emerged from his residence in Sadashivanagar on Monday evening after

hours of being cooped up inside while CBI officials searched the premises. Addressing party workers who had gathered outside his residence, Shivakumar said, "Despite the Advocate General suggesting that this case should be proved by ACB and not the CBI, the Chief Minister under pressure has given the latter permission to investigate me. No former minister has ever been investigated by the CBI in Karnataka but B S Yediyurappa has given permission to it. This will continue till elections. You go back, talk to your family members at every block level and show your solidarity in the upcoming polls."

Speaking to the media later, Shivakumar deemed the raids a pressure/scare tactic and he will not be deterred by them. "Since we raised many issues on corruption by the state government and had planned a huge agitation over the Uttar Pradesh case, the State government wants me out.

Byelections have been announced and the State government doesn't want me to talk, hence the pressure," he said, adding it won't shut him up.

While the CBI in its statement said that about Rs 57 lakh was recovered during the searches at 14 places including Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi, Shivakumar said he was not aware of recoveries made at properties other than his. "I have the panchanama right here. Only Rs 1.77 lakh was seized from my residence in Bengaluru. In the adjoining office, Rs 3-4 lakh that was kept as office expenditure perhaps has been seized along with another Rs 1-3 lakh from my New Delhi residence. There is no other cash in my house. I do not know about other properties that are not mine that they have raided. I don't know what was taken from my mother's residence in Kanakapura. Let them hang me if they can prove the allegations," Shivakumar said.



BJP hits back at Cong over allegation on raids

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH opposition Congress terming the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) raids on its state unit president D K Shivakumar's residence as a "politically motivated" move to derail its by-poll preparations, the ruling BJP leaders in the state, including ministers, dismissed the allegations.

The CBI raids are not politically motivated and have no link to the byelections, said Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayana. The Income-Tax Department and the Enforcement Directorate officials

had earlier conducted raids at Shivakumar's residence and the CBI probe may be in continuation of the investigations by the central agencies, he said adding that it is an opportunity for Shivakumar to prove his honesty. "It is not correct to politicise the raids. Some people are trying to gain political mileage by trying to politicise the raids investigations by the central agencies

The BJP has an absolute majority with 117 members in the assembly and the by-poll results will not have any impact on the government, Medical Education



K Sudhakar

Minister Dr K Sudhakar told reporters in Mysuru.

Dismissing the allegations that the raids were politically motivated, the minister said the BJP did not believe in "vendetta politics". "If that were the case, there are other leaders like Siddaramaiah who had led the government for five years. Why hasn't he been subjected to CBI raids?" he said.

"Even in the past, Shivakumar's house was raided, and the one conducted now was a continuation of the legal process. The CBI and the ED

are autonomous and independent agencies. Instead of crying foul, we must leave the agencies to do their job honestly and transparently," he said. "Shivakumar will come clean if he is honest as he claims to be."

BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel said Congress leaders, who are condemning the CBI raids, are not talking about "violations by Shivakumar."

BJP state spokesperson Capt Ganesh Karnik said leaders of Congress that was in power at the Centre and state for so many years should have clearly understood how the Central agencies function. The CBI, I-T and ED are autonomous institutions and are free to take action against those involved in financial fraud and illegal activities, he added.

DKS supporters stage protests in Bengaluru and Ramanagara

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

Soon after the CBI raid on the residence of KPCC president DK Shivakumar on Monday morning, hundreds of his supporters and Congress workers staged protests in Bengaluru and Ramanagara against the Union government, accusing the BJP of "vendetta politics".

As news of the raids at 14 places broke, supporters gathered in front of Shivakumar's residence in Sadashivanagar and staged a flash protest. This led to a chaotic situation as the police were soon outnumbered by the agitators. The police called in additional forces and beamed up the security. The protesters accused the BJP of targeting their leader (Shivakumar) only during elections.

The police pacified them, but they started the protests again. This repeated for a few times. The supporters stopped the protest only after Shivakumar's brother and Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh, whose house in Sadashivanagar was also searched, arrived at his brother's residence by evening.



Congress workers protest the raids against DK Shivakumar on Monday | SHRIRAM BN

er's residence by evening.

Security at the CBI office located in Ganganagar was also beefed up by the police, amidst reports that there were chances of the agency arresting the KPCC chief. The Youth Congress also held a protest at the party office located on Race Course Road and several Congress leaders took part. The leaders alleged that the BJP was misusing its power and was using the central agencies to settle the score with political rivals.

In Ramanagara district, hundreds of Shivakumar's supporters and party workers

staged protests in Kanakapura, the hometown of the leader, Ramanagara and Channarayana taluks. They gathered in front of the leader's house in Doddalanahalli village in Kanakapura, where the CBI officials conducted the search and seizure operations, and staged protests.

Agitators also set fire to tyres and vented their anger against the central and state BJP governments, in Nelahalli village on Kanakapura Taluk. The Ramanagara district police had also beefed up the security in the district as a precautionary step.

CBI filed PE in March this year against DKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The CBI had registered a preliminary enquiry in March this year against the KPCC president and others in the DA case after the State government in October 2019 had sanctioned permission to the agency under Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police

Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946 to inquire and investigate charges of corruption against him under the PCA. The CBI had written to the Karnataka government seeking permission to inquire and investigate the unaccounted cash of Rs 8.59 crore, which was seized by the Directorate of Income Tax (Investigation), Karnataka & Goa in August 2017 from one of the four flats in the upscale Safdarjung area of New Delhi, which is said to belong to

Shivakumar.

In September 2018 the Enforcement Directorate (ED) registered a case against Shivakumar and his four associates under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002 based on the chargesheet filed by the Income Tax (I-T) Department after it raided 60 properties of Shivakumar and his associates in August 2017 and unearthed nearly Rs. 8.59 crore of cash at four of his premises in Delhi.

The ED had arrested Shivakumar on September 3 last year under the PMLA and had referred the matter to the CBI for inquiry under the PCA. Shivakumar was in the ED custody till September 17, after which he was remanded to judicial custody in Tihar jail. He was released on October 23 last year.



Police officers outside the house of DK Shivakumar in Sadashivanagar | SHRIRAM BN

CBI FIR SAYS

DKS, family amassed assets worth Rs 75 cr

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE CBI on October 3 registered an FIR (RC10(A)/2020) against DK Shivakumar under Section 13(2), read with 13(1) (e) of the Prevention of Corruption Act at its Anti-Corruption Branch, Bengaluru.

In the FIR, the CBI stated that in the preliminary enquiry against Shivakumar and his family members, it was found that they had amassed disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs 74.93 crore between April 1, 2013, and April 30, 2018, during which time he was a Cabinet minister and thus, a public servant.

As on April 1, 2013, Shivakumar had assets worth Rs 33,92,62,793, which is also mentioned in his election affidavit on April 13. Between April 1, 2013, and April 30, 2018, Shivakumar and his family members acquired assets worth Rs 128,60,81,700, and the total assets they held were to the tune of Rs 162,53,44,494. Their total income and receipts during this period were Rs 166,79,58,216, and total expenditure was Rs 113,12,16,585. They are thus found to be in possession of disproportionate assets worth around Rs 74.93 crore, which is 44.93 per cent of the total income, the CBI stated in the FIR.



JDS-Cong bickering gets personal as bypolls approach

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru/ Tumakuru

AS the Sira bypolls approach closer, bickering between the once coalition partners and now arch-rivals - JDS and Congress - is only escalating with personal attacks taking centre-stage. A day after Congress Legislature Party chief Siddaramaiah deemed the JDS a non-entity former chief minister and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy asked what the status of India's oldest political party -- the Congress -- was today.

Careful not to name Siddaramaiah, Kumaraswamy only referred to him as a "leader who should be indebted to the JDS". Lashing out at the Congress "inability to form governments on its own" and



HD Kumaraswamy campaigns in Sira

leaning on other opposition parties to remain relevant, Kumaraswamy said Siddaramaiah will be taught a lesson for his arrogance in the upcoming polls.

"A leader who came to public life because of JDS, became Deputy Chief Minister from JDS, and spoke lightly of JDS even as he was welcoming JDS leaders into his party fold. He has said the JDS is a political non-entity. Is your

party, which is unable to find candidates from within and is poaching JDS leaders, a political party then?" asked Kumaraswamy. "As the oldest party in the country what state is the Congress in today? In how many states has it come to power on its own and formed governments? Will this man who should be indebted to JDS answer these questions?" Kumaraswamy asked.

HDK, Siddu spar over secular tag

The Congress and JDS are now sparring over the Muslim vote, and claiming the 'secular' tag. Responding to former CM Siddaramaiah's allegation that the JDS and BJP have forged an alliance for the bypolls, Kumaraswamy alleged at a meeting

that Siddaramaiah and BJP have a nexus, and sought to know who had sent JDS sympathiser Dr CM Rajesh Gowda to the BJP as a candidate.

"Rajesh had a business partnership with Siddaramaiah's son Dr Yatheendra. Rajesh's father C P Mudalagiriappa was Congress LS member," he said, appealing to Muslims not to trust Siddaramaiah.

By giving the ticket to late B Satyanarayana's wife Ammaamma, the JDS is hoping to grab sympathy votes. Trying to convince ticket aspirants, Kumaraswamy told them that this factor will work in Sira too. But Ammaamma is insisting on the ticket for her son B S Satyaprakash, and did not show up at the meeting.

Cong workers won't be cowed down: Surjewala

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala said Congress workers and leaders will not be cowed down by such devious attempts. "Our resolve to fight for people and expose BJP's maladministration only becomes stronger," he said, and termed the CBI, ED and IT as the BJP's frontal organisations.

KPCC working president Saleem Ahmed said the raids were conducted to divert attention from the government's failures, corruption in purchase of equipment to fight Covid and other issues. "The BJP knows we are taking these issues



before the people, and conducted the raids to divert attention," he said.

The Congress is likely to make the CBI raids a major issue during the bypoll, by accusing the BJP of targeting Shivakumar.

Political analyst Professor Harish Ramaswamy, however, said protests, dharnas and making allegations will not help the Congress, and the party has to convince people about the raids.

EXPRESS READ

Pending works will have to wait for more time

Bengaluru: The Water Resources Department meeting called by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday with Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam, Cauvery Neeravari Nigam and Karnataka Neeravari Nigam didn't take up any major decisions. Only routine issues were discussed and many works, which were put on hold since March, will have to wait till the financial situation of the state improves. Water Resources Department officials said that there was pressure from the government not to take up major works because of financial constraints. The meeting was attended by Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and Chief Secretary Vijay Bhaskar among others. ENS

MDMA row: MAHE to hold awareness classes

Drugs seized from student, who sourced them from dark web

PRAKASH SAMAGA @ Udupi

THE seizure of a large quantity of MDMA, a psychotropic drug, from an engineering student in Manipal on Sunday, set off an alarm in the education hub. The student, Himanshu Joshi, is a seventh semester student of Instrumentation and Control, MIT, Manipal. The seizure indicates that the smuggling route is well-established, and students are part of the ring to make some quick money.

The arrested student, as per initial investigation, sourced the MDMA through the dark web, but police are probing as to how he found customers. The campuses of various educational institutions in Manipal are closed due to the pandemic. There are hardly any students from outside the state who could have been his customers. The cops are investigating if



he was targeting any local youths.

Several awareness drives against drug abuse have been held by the district police and MAHE in the past. Manipal being an educational centre with about 22,000 students studying in various streams, the seizure of 498 MDMA tablets worth ₹14.9 lakh has led the police towards the network, which they suspect is from Europe.

Head of MAHE's Narcotics Centre Dr Vinod Naik told TNIE that MAHE has been regularly holding awareness drives to sensitise students against drug abuse. However, due to the pandemic, it could not be done this year. There are only about 800 students on campus who have returned for the PG examination. "Once the campus is full, we will resume the awareness campaign. We are also planning to go in for an online awareness programme," he said.

A source in the investigating team told TNIE that Himanshu delayed revealing the information. "Hence, we are slow in getting the correct picture. But we will question him to get information on his customers," the source added.



AN HONOUR

Governor Vajubhai Vala confers an honorary doctorate on MLC K Govindaraj for his contribution to sports, at the convocation of Rani Chennamma University in Belagavi on Monday

'Rally against MD's behaviour'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THE local villagers protested. Three days later all the locks in our houses were replaced. During the dharna on Monday, we got a call from the CM's office and five of our representatives met B S Yediyurappa, who said that 52 veterans would be given the new keys on Monday and the rest

shortly," Nagaraja, the veteran, added.

Col Rajan said, "Our rally was held to protest against the illegal, objectionable and high-handed behaviour of the MD of Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation."

Mahadevapura MLA Arvind Limbavali on Monday evening handed over the new keys to the veterans.

Give details of public toilets, BBMP told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Monday directed the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to explain how many toilets have been set up and whether any exercise has been done to provide public toilets for women.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Ashok S Kinagi passed the order after hearing the public interest litigation filed by city-based Letz-Kit Foundation seeking directions to BBMP to provide sufficient number of public, toilets both paid and free, and to ensure that those toilets are kept clean as per the guidelines prescribed under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).

The petitioner contended that Section 245 of the KMC Act says the corporation shall provide and maintain in proper and convenient places, a sufficient number of public privies and shall make sure they are kept clean and in proper order.

The petitioner, through the counsel, contended that as per the guidelines of SBM, Bengaluru required 1,100 public toilets and the toilet complex had to be established every 7 km. However, as per information available on the BBMP website, only 479 toilets were constructed between 1965 and 2014. Even 50 per cent of the toilets do not meet the standards set by mission, due to poor maintenance.



'Fewer loos lead to open defecation'

According to a survey conducted by Janaagraha, an NGO, of the 473 public toilet complexes containing 2,838 toilets in Bengaluru, 150 complexes are maintained by the BBMP while 75 are run by private persons/bodies. Due to non-availability of toilets, open defecation is visible on footpaths, the petitioner claimed.

GREAT GREAT BUST

Spl court rejects bail for 6 accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Special Court for NDPS cases on Monday dismissed the bail petitions filed by six accused in the Sandalwood drugs case. Accused Prashanth Ranka, Niyas Mohammed, Vaibhav Jain alias Vaibhav Kumar and Pratheek, who have been arrested and are currently lodged at Bengaluru Central Prison in Parappana Agrahara, had filed bail applications before the Special Court. Two accused who are absconding, Abhiswamy and Prashanth Raju G, had filed for anticipatory bail.

When the matter came up for hearing on September 30, the court reserved the order on these petitions and adjourned proceedings. When the petitions came up for hearing on Monday, the court dismissed all six petitions. While dismissing the petitions, the court observed that granting bail to the accused at this stage would hamper the ongoing probe and that the possibility of them tampering with evidence and threatening witnesses can not be ruled out.

Meanwhile, the bail petition filed by Benald Udenna was adjourned till Wednesday. It may be recalled that the court had rejected bail to actresses Ragini Dwivedi, Sanjana Galrani, and Rahul Thonse in the case on September 28. The same day, the anticipatory bail plea filed by Shivaprakash, the prime accused, and Vinay Kumar, were also dismissed by the court. So far, the court has rejected bail to 11 people in the case.

ESTD: 1907

THE BANGALORE CITY CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED

Administrative Office: # 3, PAMPAMAHAKAVI ROAD, CHAMARAJAPET, BANGALORE -18. Ph. : 26678572 : 26600512 : 26609066. General Manager : 26617980 : Tele Fax : (080) 26617980

SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH PUBLIC AUCTION

Auction Sale under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 of the Immovable properties mortgaged to the Bangalore City Co. operative Bank Ltd., is brought to Sale under "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION".

Sl No	Name of the Borrower & Address Description of property	Boundaries & Measurement	Amount of Secured debt	Date of Public Auction
1.	Sri. Thimmaiah. V No.44, 5th Cross, Deepanjaninagar, Government Electric Factory, Bengaluru-26, No.8, 1st Cross Road, Deepanjan Nagar, BBMP Ward No. 41 of Gali Anjaneya Temple, PID No. 41-16-8, Bengaluru.	East to West: 50 feet & North to South: 17 feet East by : Property belongs to Sri. Hanumantha West by : Conservancy Galli North by : 3 feet Common Passage for Ingress & Egress South by : House belongs to Sri. Ramaiah	Rs. 40,30,400/- (Interest from 05.10.2020) Reserve Price Rs. 35,93,000/-	22.10.2020 11.00 A.M

(1) The public auction will be conducted in the premises of Administrative office, No. 3, Pampa Mahakavi Road, Chamarajapet, Bangalore-18. (2) For participation in the auction the intending bidder have to deposit an amount equivalent to 10% of the Reserve price of the property being auctioned. The cautioned deposit shall be forfeited by the bank without any prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of Sale, time and commits default in any manner. (3) The successful bidders should deposit 25% of the bid amount on the same day at the sale in cash/D.D. to the bank and the balance within 15 days from the date of sale. (4) The Successful bidders shall bear all expenses like st duty Registration fee etc., for getting the sale certificate Registered in his/her favour. (5) The authorised officer shall have power to accept or reject bids or postpone/cancel the auction without assigning any reasons thereof. (6) For inspection of the property and other particular, the intending bidders may contact the undersigned at The Bangalore City Co-operative Bank Ltd., Administrative office, or through phone No.26678572 / 26600512, they are at liberty to make their own Assessment / enquiry about the property.

Date : 05.10.2020
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorized Officer
The Bangalore City Co-operative Bank Ltd.,

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to General Public that the following document has been lost and not traceable, by my client, Sri. V. Munilakshmaiah and Sri. M. Manjunath. If found inform to Smt. B. Malika, Advocate, No. 10, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Saraswathipuram, Nandiniyayout, Bangalore-560096, within eight days from the date of publication. Sale deed, dated 10/05/2013, executed by Sri. C.K. Sangram Singh, in favour of Smt. Clara, registered as document No. B.Y.P.-1-01019-2013-2014, in Book I, stored in CD no. B.Y.P.D170, on 15/05/2013, in the office of the sub-registrar, Byatarayanapura, with respect to northern portion of site no. 35, situated at Doddabettahalli Village measuring 719 Sq. Ft. Contact: 9740776137

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that SMT. M. RAJESHWARI, is the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and SRI. VASANTH KUMAR P. is intending to purchase the same by availing loan from my client M/S. Repco Home Finance Limited, M.G. Road Branch and creating security on the schedule property in favour of my client. In case anybody having any claim in respect of the schedule property, they should inform to the undersigned within SEVEN DAYS from the date of publication of this notice along with necessary documents.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.63/2, situated at Gollahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, property now comes under the limits of BBMP measuring east to west: 30 feet and north to south 40 feet, totally measuring 1200 Square feet, and bounded on:
East by : 15 feet Wide Road,
West by : Sri. Narayana's Property,
North by : Sri. Narayana's Property,
South by : Smt. Gajamma's Property,
N. JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.276, 2nd Floor, 1st Main Road,
Chamarajapet, Bangalore-560018.

UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE

Office Of The Executive Engineer, University Engineering Department
Manasagangotri Mysore -06.
(Re-accredited by NAAC with 3.4,7 CGPA of 4.0 scale)
(NIRF-2020 Ranked 27 in University category & 47 in overall category)
Ph: 2419383/2419345/2419295, e-mail: euom@uni-mysore.ac.in www.uni-mysore.ac.in
No. UED./DB.1/919/2020-21 Date: 23-09-2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement portal Govt of Karnataka)
Tender Notification No. UED/DB-1/e-Proc/IFT-14/2020-21. DT: 23.09.2020
Website: <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

The Executive Engineer, University Engineering Division, University of Mysore, Mysore invites tender for the works in two cover system, tender procedure through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka as per Karnataka Transparency in Public procurement act 1999 and rules 2000, as per Clauses / Conditions of Standard Tender Document K/W-4 from eligible registered Civil contractors Last date for receipt of tender on 23.10.2020 Tender must be accompanied by earnest money deposit which will be paid online through e-procurement portal <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> as specified in the tender document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the tender. Any further details can be had from the above office during working hours.

Name of work	Estimate Amount (in lakhs)	EMD in Rs.	Period
Proposed Construction of University School of Commerce at University land at Chamundi Hills, Mysuru	492.00	7,38,000/-	9 months

NOTE: Detailed may be obtained from e-procurement portal, Govt. of Karnataka website <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> Additional details may be obtained from this office or through Phone No. 0821-2419383 or Mobile No.9448788943

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
University of Mysore

CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS
(An autonomous Institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)
Inner Ring Road, Uppal, HYDERABAD-500039, Telangana, India
Ph: +91-40-27216015, Website: www.cdfd.org.in

Adv. No. CDFD/EMPC/4/September'20

CDFD, an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, invites applications from Indian nationals for the following purely temporary vacancies in research projects funded by National / International agencies at CDFD like DST/DBT/ICMR/CSIR etc. The description of the positions and minimum qualifications for various vacancies are as follows:

- 1) Research Associate
- 2) Project-Senior Research Fellow
- 3) Project-Junior Research Fellow
- 4) Project Associate-I
- 5) Project Associate-II
- 6) Senior Project Associate
- 7) Principal Project Associate
- 8) Project Scientist
- 9) Laboratory Technician
- 10) Data Entry Operator

Please refer CDFD website www.cdfd.org.in for detailed information regarding projects, position(s), emoluments etc., application format and general conditions. Interested candidates may register their names by applying in the prescribed application form online. Complete the application form online at <http://www.cdfd.org.in>. The last date for receipt of the applications is 23.10.2020 and applications received after 23.10.2020 will be rejected.

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. BELAGAVI/MWD/EEE/AEEE/2020-21/2169-170 Date: 29.09.2020

NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited., has formulated the following Scheme under Section 67 of Electricity Supply Act-2003 and the scheme is hereby published as per Section 67(2) of the said Act mentioned above for information of the General Public.

Particulars of the scheme are as follows:

1. Name of the Scheme: Construction of LILO transmission line on DC towers for a distance of 2.401kms. from the existing 110kV Hukkeri-Vishwanatha Sugars SC line to Proposed 110/11kV Sub-station at Bellada Bagewadi for proposed newly construction of 110/11kV Bellada Bagewadi Sub-station in Bellada Bagewadi village limits in Hukkeri Taluk, Belagavi District.

The said transmission line passes through the areas and land Reg. Sy. Nos. are as follows.

Sl. No.	Transmission line passes through Areas/Village	Land Survey Numbers
1	Bellada Bagewadi	161, 162, 197, 198, 196, 200, 210, 203, 204, 208, 207, 213, 214, 247, 246, 254

The line passes through the above mentioned village & Reg. Sy. Nos. and jurisdiction of nearby villages & Reg. Sy. Nos.

Salient Features: To supply quality power for Bellada Bagewadi village, surrounding areas, town, village area and agriculture activities & to meet the future load growth. KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers which the Telegraphic authorities possess under Part III of the Indian Telegraph Act-1885(13 of 1885) for carrying out the above scheme. Any objections regarding the above scheme shall be sent to the office of the undersigned within 30 Days from the date of publication of this Notification for KPTCL pursuance.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elec.),
Major Works Division, KPTCL, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi-590 010.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 1st Re Tender of 32/SE/PHCK/2020-21, 33/SE/PHCK/2020-21. JJM-2020-21 Chirakkadavu and Vellavoor Grama Panchayath, Kottayam District - Laying pipelines and Providing FHTC. EMD : Rs. 1,00,000/-, 1,00,000. Tender fee : Rs. 7,500 + 18% GST, 7,500 + 18% GST. Last date for submitting Tender : 16-10-2020 04:00:pm. Phone : 04812562745. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

KWA-JB-GL-6-449-2020-21
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Kottayam

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM
e-Procurement Short Term Notice IFB No. 07/2020-21 Dt.05.10.2020

Tender for the work of "Right to collect entrance fee from the tourists visiting TB Dam Right side gardens for a period of one year (12 Months)" is invited through 'e-Procurement'

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time : 06.10.2020 at 11.00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time : 13.10.2020 at 3.00 PM
Last Date & Time for submission of Bids : 13.10.2020 at 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bids : 13.10.2020 at 6.00 PM
Date of opening of Price Bids : 15.10.2020 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen @ <https://tender.aeprocurement.gov.in>
Sd/- K.V.Ramana,
Superintending Engineer,
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Belagavi District, Belagavi
Telephone no:0831-2407279 E-Mail:dudc_bgm@yahoo.co.in
No: BGM/DUDC/4/CR-151/2016-17 Dated: 01-10-2020
Tender Notification-2nd Call

The Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi District, Belagavi invites tender in two cover system using KW-3 document for Belagavi District Nagrothana (Municipality) 3 Project works as detailed below:- (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Description of works	Amount Put to Tender	Earnest Money Deposit
1	Construction of OHT Tank and Providing Pipe lines for Janata Colony Families in Town Municipal Council Harugeri limits of Belagavi District. (E-proc Indent No. DMA/2020-21/WS/WORK INDENT 104405/Call-2)	88.82	1.78
2	Construction of Office Building in Town Panchayat Kabbur limits Belagavi district.(E-proc Indent No. DMA/2020-21/BD/WORK INDENT 104448/Call-2)	81.12	1.62

Contractors can download and submit the tenders through e-Procurement portal at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:

1	Period of Construction	Sl. No.01 work - 06 Months Sl. No.02 work - 12 Months
2	Last Date for submission of tenders	02-11-2020 upto 17.00 hrs.
3	Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids)	04-11-2020 at 11.00 hrs.

Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/-Project Director
District Urban Development Cell Belagavi
DUPR/BGM/NO-572/MCA/2020-21



GETTING READY FOR D-DAY

A worker paints the premises of Goddess Kanaka Durga temple ahead of Dasara, in Vijayawada on Monday | PRAVINDRABABU

TWITTER UPROAR

Preacher sends 'inappropriate' messages, suspended

R SIVAKUMAR @Vellore

A preacher serving with the Scripture Union -- a Christian organisation aimed at propagating the Bible -- has landed in trouble after allegations cropped up that he had been sending messages to a few girl school children on social networking sites, with an aim to sexually exploit them.

Sam Jaisundar, secretary of the English section of publications with the Scripture Union, allegedly sent "inappropriate" messages to school students with whom he had come in contact during an annual Vocational Bible School (VBS) event. The issue came to the fore after a Twitter user on Sunday shared screenshots of conversations purportedly between Jaisundar and students of a Christian school in Vellore. The sexual undertones of the conversation, allegedly from Jaisundar, triggered a controversy.

In many of chats, the person alleged to be Jaisundar, had asked the children to send him their photos, asked them what they were at bedtime and if they had ever been kissed, and pestered them for hugs. The messages and posts were shared by playback singer Chinmayi Sripaada, who has been voicing against sexual assault and harassment on women, as part of the #MeToo movement.

Taking cognizance of the matter, the board members of Scripture Union held an urgent meeting on Sunday night and decided to take stringent action against him. Subsequently, Jaisundar was suspended on Monday. "We held a meeting overnight and decided to suspend him," Joshua Kirubaraj, national director of Scripture Union told TNIE.

Techies among 41 held for promoting child porn online

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

IN a statewide crackdown held as part of Operation P-Hunt, an initiative launched by Kerala Police to arrest people involved in sharing and posting child sexual abuse material (CSAM), 41 people, including IT professionals, were arrested on Monday for circulating obscene videos of minors on social media. As many as 268 cases were registered in connection with sharing pictures and videos containing CSAM through WhatsApp and Telegram messenger services.

In the raids conducted on Saturday and Sunday across 326 locations in the state, 285 electronic devices, including mobile phones, modems, hard disks, memory cards, laptops and computers, were seized. The accused were booked under IT Act and Pocs. They were identified with the help of Cyberdome and Interpol.

ADGP (Headquarters) and Cyberdome nodal officer Manoj Abraham said the seized devices contained obscene videos and pictures that appeared to be of children below the age of 15. "The accused were found to be using encrypted handles to upload and download such material. Some are even suspected to be involved in child trafficking as many chats to this effect were found in the confiscated gadgets," he said.

While Malappuram recorded the most number of cases



of 47, Palakkad registered the most number of arrests and raids. A total of nine persons were arrested in Palakkad alone. The raids, led by IG (Crimes) S Sreejith, were carried out by the Countering Child Sexual Exploitation (CCSE) team with the support of the concerned local police.

Some are even suspected to be involved in child trafficking as many chats to this effect were found in the confiscated gadgets

Manoj Abraham, ADGP (HQ) and Cyberdome nodal officer

A CCSE team official also said they have detected several groups on Telegram that are engaged in circulating CSAM. "Some groups such as 'Chakka', 'Bog Melon', 'Upum Mulakum', 'Gold Garden', 'Devatha', 'Incest Lovers' and 'Poothumbikal' -- each of which comprised more than 400 members -- were found to be sharing CSAM. The groups have been shut down with the help of Telegram and efforts are on to identify the members and admins," said the official.

GOLD SMUGGLING CASE

Court lambasts NIA, demands proof of terror

Says if evidence not submitted, will consider granting bail to accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Kochi on Monday was highly critical of the ongoing probe into the case related to the smuggling of gold via diplomatic channel while considering the bail petitions of eight accused persons who mainly invested money in the illegal activity. The court, while yet again directing the NIA to submit the Case Dairy (CD), orally observed that it cannot continue to believe that there is evidence against accused persons under various Sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) as charged by the anti-terror agency.

V T Raghunath, counsel of accused Amjad Ali -- who is among those seeking bail -- said the court asked the NIA to list out the 30 accused into three categories -- those directly involved in the smuggling activity, the conspirators, and who invested the money for the gold that was smuggled through the diplomatic channel. "The court has approved our demand and asked to present a list of persons who invested money."

The investors were not involved in the case relating to terror financing. They did it to make money. The court orally observed that it cannot wait any longer for the NIA to submit the evidence under



A file picture of accused Swapna Suresh being taken to NIA court

Swapna Suresh granted bail

The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (Economic Offences) Court on Monday granted bail to Swapna Suresh, the prime accused in the gold smuggling case. The bail was granted after the Customs could not file a final report even after 60 days of her arrest. The court ordered Swapna to execute a bond of ₹2 lakh each and two solvent sureties equal to the bond amount.

Sandeep Nair's confession recorded

The Aluva Judicial First Class Magistrate on Monday recorded the confession of Sandeep Nair, a key accused in the case relating to the smuggling of gold via the diplomatic baggage. Sandeep's statement is likely to be used as evidence to counter bail petitions of eight accused persons at the NIA court on Tuesday.

Section 16, 17 and 18 of the UAPA that the smuggled gold was meant to fund terrorist activities or purposefully destabilise the economic security of the nation under Section 15 of UAPA. At one stage the court even observed that if the necessary evidence is not submitted, it may have to consider granting bail to the accused," he said.

Ever since taking over the probe, the NIA has repeatedly

claimed that the smuggled gold was meant for funding terrorist activities. However, when the bail petition of prime accused Swapna came up before the court in August this year, the agency claimed that the accused persons intended to destabilise the economic security of the nation. Even in recent petitions filed, NIA claimed that it suspects that smuggled gold was meant for funding terror activities.

'Brokers' call students, offer to fudge NEET marks

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

WHILE medical aspirants were often plagued with concerns of seat blocking in the past, a new problem has raised its head this time, even before results are out. Students are receiving calls from persons claiming to be representatives of National Testing Agency (NTA), the body that was in charge of conducting NEET efficiently from 2019, offering to manipulate their OMR sheets. Students are thereby assured of admission into their desired colleges by these persons. This

contradicts the standard procedure of admissions to medical colleges, which are only done on the basis of ranks obtained by candidates, and counselling by DGHS for seats under the 15 per cent All India Quota.

Reports also started surfacing on social media about the same, casting aspersions on the credibility of the examination conducted by NTA to ensure efficient and transparent testing process of international standards.

"If these reports are true,

then it is bad as each mark counts in NEET examination," said S Sachidanand, vice-chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences.

NTA officials, on the other hand, clarified that they do not have access to the phone numbers or email IDs of candidates, hence there is no communication by NTA

regarding anyone's result or rank at this point of time. The agency said that any communication about the score card and rank of the candidate is done through the official

website www.nta.ac.in and ntaneet.ac.in.

It also clarified that its role ends with conducting the examination, while the declaration of results and provision of ranking comes under the purview of the Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

NTA officials who took cognizance of the "unscrupulous elements", have also lodged complaints with the police in this regard, and urged parents to file complaints in case such elements call them up.

EXPRESS READ

13-year-old Dalit girl set ablaze for resisting rape

Khammam: A 13-year-old Dalit girl, who worked as a domestic help at a house in Khammam, was set ablaze by her employer's son after she resisted his sexual advances. The girl, who sustained 70 per cent burns, is now battling for life at a private hospital. As per the preliminary information provided by police, the incident occurred on September 18, after which the girl's employers got her admitted to a private hospital and hid the incident from the victim's parents. The incident came to light on Monday when the girl managed to inform her parents as to what exactly happened at the house. **ENS**

First supersonic anti-sub missile test successful

Bhubaneswar: In a major technological breakthrough, India successfully tested Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) for the first time from a defence facility off Odisha coast on Monday. Developed by DRDO, SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight anti submarine torpedo system for Anti Submarine Warfare operations far beyond torpedo range. The launch demonstrated India's anti submarine warfare capabilities. Defence sources said the test was conducted from a ground-based launching platform at the Abdul Kalam Island at about 11.45 am. **ENS**

FLOURISHING DURING COVID

TOY STORY: KOPPAL CLUSTER TO GENERATE THOUSANDS OF JOBS, CREATE BIG BIZ



PLAYING IN THE BIG LEAGUE

- Koppal Toy Cluster (KTC) expected to create 5,000 direct and nearly one lakh indirect employment opportunities
- KTC expected to start operations next year
- A private company has already invested invests Rs 2,000 cr at the cluster
- The toy market in the country is around Rs 8,000 crore, but only 20% is garnered by Indian manufacturers.
- Of this Rs 1,600 crore market, Channapatna toys get only around 10-15 per cent
- Nearly 3,000 families involved in manufacturing Channapatna toys

AMIT S UPADHYE @Hubballi

AT a time when the Covid pandemic is ripping through sectors, affecting jobs and livelihoods, there is some good news from Koppal, where a toy cluster is expected to start manufacturing international branded toys by October 2020, generating thousands of jobs.

Spread across 450 acres, the Koppal Toy Cluster (KTC) will be the game changer for Koppal district and surrounding areas, which is likely to create 25,000 direct and nearly one lakh indirect employment opportunities over the next five years.

Aequus Consumers Company, which already manufactures toys at its Belagavi facility, has announced an investment of Rs 2,000 crore in the cluster. Company CEO Aravind Melligeri said, "Currently, China supplies majority of toys in the world. But the scenario is changing with intense trade wars between the West and China, which may help India bag a few projects. Toys are in great demand and Koppal is the best place to set up the cluster. A



Koppal Toy Cluster will manufacture globally known brands of toys

Online biz for local toys picks up

The traditional toy industry in the state is suffering from poor business because of Covid. The largest among them, Channapatna toys which have a global market, have gone online to increase the sales. But other traditional toy art forms, like Kinnal in Koppal and Dasara toys from Mysuru and Bengaluru, are yet to make their mark online.

(With inputs from Shreepada Ayachit)

large number of women from the district will get jobs here." He said, "Our customers from Hong Kong, China and Vietnam are already in touch with us and it will help if we can start production here soon. We have tied up with multinational companies, including

Hasbro, Mattel and Spin Master, to manufacture, pack and deliver toys from here." BJP leader and Koppal MP Sanganna Amarappa Karadi's son Amaresh, who took part in a Foreign Investors Council (FIC) meeting in Bengaluru recently, said that Koppal district

has a great potential to set up special economic zones and industrial corridors. He said that he urged investors to put in their money in the district.

Traditional artists too are pitching for their craft to be pushed through the cluster. Kinnal toys, manufactured in the district, are already known across the world, said artisan Venkateshappa Chitrakar. "Practitioners of this craft need specific technical training to improve and market their products better," he added.

Trade experts pointed out that a skill development training centre coming up near Bhanapur village in Kulkanoor taluk of the district will augur well for the country's first toy cluster. "It will help youngsters get quality jobs. The cluster is projected to generate employment for about 40,000 workers in five years," said lecturer Suryaprakash Hanasi, who teaches at VGET Polytechnic in Kulkanoor.

Khader Ali, a private school teacher of computer science, said a Computer Aided Design course will help students get employment in the toy cluster.

CHANNAPATNA TOYS GET ONLY 10-15% OF COUNTRY'S BUSINESS

Bengaluru: Nearly 3,000 families in Channapatna taluk are involved in churning out attractive, eco-friendly Channapatna toys. Made from the traditional wood found only in Channapatna and Ramanagar and lac, which is a natural resin sourced from wild bees, these toys don't have any artificial elements, said M Suguna Murthy, Secretary, Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "While the business from the US and European markets is around Rs 75-100 crore, the domestic market is valued between Rs 25 crore and Rs 30 crore," he said. But he stressed that the artisans of "Gombegalu Ooru", or a City of Toys, lead a life of drudgery. "Though over 200 different products are churned out by these artisans, the industry is still run largely by family-run concerns. Toys are literally made at homes in a traditional manner, with a lot of hard work. Families operate wood turning lathes and they face health issues because of dust. There is an urgent need to incorporate technology to improve manufacturing and their health," he added. The Central government last month announced the "One District, One Product" programme across the country to help local products gain international market, and Channapatna toys are best suited for it, he said. The toy market in the country is around Rs 8,000 crore, but only 20 per cent is garnered by Indian manufacturers. "Of this Rs 1,600 crore market, Channapatna toys get only around 10-15 per cent," he said. C R Janardhana, president, FKCCI, said that the state government should support the industry. "The present GST of 12 per cent imposed on Channapatna toys need to be slashed to 5 per cent," he said.



INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE DOES NOT HELP THE VULNERABLE

After every horrific case of rape that becomes news, public outrage leads to a few amendments to the existing law. Either making the punishment more stringent or widening the ambit of what can be considered rape. In fact, the first major amendment to Section 375 of the IPC came after widespread protests against the Supreme Court overturning the Bombay High Court's decision in a custodial rape case of an Adivasi woman leading to the acquittal of two police officers. And in 2018, it was the nationwide outcry over the gang-rape of an eight-year-old in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir, that led to the Criminal Law Act being amended to make rape of a minor under 12 punishable with death penalty, and make sentences more stringent in a graded manner. In 2013, consequent to the Justice Verma Committee report, death penalty had been introduced in case the rape survivor dies or is rendered near-dead. The naysayers were swept aside as public anger for retribution was high after the brutality of the gang-rape in a Delhi bus, in what came to be known as the Nirbhaya case. The accused were hanged not so long ago.

However, headline-grabbing cases did not cease: Just recently, a young veterinary doctor in Hyderabad was raped and killed, a girl in Unnao in UP met a similar fate. Now, the brutality witnessed in Hathras raises the same set of questions. Is death penalty a deterrent? Probably not. Women's rights activists and scholars had consistently warned against it in 2013. Global data shows the threat of a death sentence doubly endangers the life of the rape victim, as the criminals develop a stake in obliterating 'evidence'. Retributive capital punishment is no substitute for law and order; and it clearly does not protect the vulnerable. Without a mass sensitisation via education, a revisiting of the law and long-pending police reforms, there's little hope.

BCCI AND THE CURIOUS CASE OF WOMEN'S T20S

It is commendable on the part of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to announce a three-team women's T20 series in the UAE from November 4-9. The domestic sports calendar is uncertain due to the Covid-19 pandemic. And although the men's team will travel to Australia for a series of Tests, ODIs and T20s after the Indian Premier League (IPL), there is no news of any bilateral series featuring the women's team. Under the circumstances, four matches featuring Indian and foreign players during the IPL to be shown on prime time TV is a big boost for women's cricket. That is why this initiative is praiseworthy.

But announcing the fixtures is one part of it and making sure that everything else happens properly is another. There are reasons to think that the BCCI is doing this more in haste than in the best interest of women's cricket. There was no selection committee to pick the teams when the series was announced. Suddenly, a selection committee was formed without following the steps made mandatory by the Supreme Court. With the IPL in full flow and fans busy applauding sixes, this quickly slipped out of public memory. Also, there will be around 25-30 Indian players in three teams. They were not in touch with bat and ball for a long time. Some of them have resumed practising, some have not. For an event of this level, there should be a conditioning camp for players under the supervision of coaches and other members of the support staff. With less than a month to go, the BCCI is still quiet on this.

This is not to suggest that the BCCI under Sourav Ganguly and Jay Shah is not doing enough for women's cricket. Like having the IPL in the UAE against all odds, slotting the Women's Challenger during it is a laudable effort. Events of such nature can go a long way in enhancing the reputation of women's cricket, which does not have a great following in India yet. But it also has to take all necessary steps to ensure proper conduct. Only then will it be remembered as a noble initiative and not a marketing gimmick.



The cost of higher education has risen as fast as the cost of health care... Such totally uncontrollable expenditures, without any visible improvement in the content or the quality of education, means the system is rapidly becoming untenable

Peter Drucker

A little over a year ago, there were growing concerns over the sustainability of the Quad as a means of supporting the rules-based approach in the wider Indo-Pacific

CHINA'S BELLIGERENCE AND THE RISE OF THE QUAD

SHANKARI SUNDARARAMAN



Professor, School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi

ASIAN AXIS

The last week of September saw a flurry of activity with senior officials of the Quad meeting virtually to look at potential areas of convergence in a post-Covid world. As a preliminary discussion prior to the second Quad foreign ministers meet scheduled to take place in Japan on October 6, the virtual meeting aimed to address core areas of concern among members. Interestingly, as far as the processes of multilateralism are concerned, the Quad meeting once again reiterated its support for the centrality of ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the region. This brings the focus well and truly on regional transitions in the Indo-Pacific, even as the pandemic has unleashed economic uncertainties and geopolitical challenges.

A core outcome of the meeting was highlighted by the statement of the Ministry of External Affairs on the relevance of a "free, open, prosperous and inclusive" Indo-Pacific where countries furthered their "shared values and respect for international law". Increasingly, the reference to shared values and respect for international law has implicitly addressed growing concerns among

states over Chinese aggression and efforts to shift the regional balance in its favour. Even during the height of the pandemic, Chinese behaviour has reflected little respect for the international community and international law. Rather, it almost seems as if China is using the preoccupation of countries with the pandemic to increase its belligerence in a bid for regional and global status.

A little over a year ago, there were growing concerns as to the sustainability of the Quad as a means of supporting the rules-based approach in the wider Indo-Pacific. Two countries that clearly stood apart from within the Quad were Australia and India, who shied away from an outright commitment to the group given the importance of their bilateral engagements with China. A speech by the Australian Defence Minister Christopher Pyne in Singapore in January 2019 made it clear that Australia was keen to avoid the implications of another 'Cold War' in the region, this time propelled by US-China rivalry. This statement came in the aftermath of the 2017 United States National Security Strategy paper that clearly identified China as a com-

petitor to "American power, influence and interests". For Australia, economic relations with China was another factor that compelled it to balance ties between Washington and Beijing. Australia is China's sixth largest trading partner; China is the largest trading partner for Australia both in goods and services. However, in the aftermath of Covid-19, bilateral ties between the two have been strained, particularly in light of Australia supporting the idea of an independent inquiry into the origins of the pandemic. The lowest point of the ties was when Chinese state media referred to Australia as a "dog of the United States".

Similarly, India too did not initially embrace the Quad fully, given that it had a 'China contain-



Australia and India earlier shied away from an outright commitment to the group given the importance of their bilateral engagements with China... But now, things have changed as even during the height of the pandemic, Beijing has shown little respect for the international community

ment' view. Even in the aftermath of the Doklam crisis in 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his speech at the Shangri La dialogue of 2018, reiterated the importance of an "inclusive" Indo-Pacific, significantly pushing the onus on a collective model of accommodation of interests and concerns. Furthermore, in an effort to address the bilateral tensions with China, the informal summits of Wuhan and Mamallapuram were high in optics while yielding minimal outcomes. The current border tensions in Ladakh add greater complications at the bilateral level, pushing India to further consolidate its own interests with like-minded states.

While several observers have viewed the exit of Shinzo Abe from the political scene as likely to have a serious impact, this may not be the case. Japan's commitment to the primacy of its special security relations with the US will remain in place. Moreover, the question of Japan becoming a 'normal' state was in discussion prior to PM Abe's leadership. Critical to this assessment is the July 2014 reinterpretation of the right of maintaining the Japanese Self Defence Force, which can now support and fight with its allies in defence of itself and

larger allied interests. This shift will remain in place in the post-Abe period and will continue to bring Japan into closer integration with other states to maintain a rules-based order.

One of the core issues is the effort to address the stability of regional and global supply chains that are affected by the pandemic. China holds primary importance as the leading player in global supply chains. On 1 September 2020, three countries among the Quad, Australia, India and Japan, set up the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative to look at options to diversify the uninterrupted movement of goods. This will be a focus of the foreign ministers meeting on 6 October 2020 at Tokyo. The meeting is also expected to look at a post-Covid global order and the challenges that will emerge from it. Even as the US is grappling with a mounting death toll due to the pandemic, has its President in hospital with Covid-19 and prepares for a bitterly contested election next month, the challenge of maintaining its primacy will remain critical. The logic of direct proportionality implies that a rise in Chinese belligerence will see a proportional rise of the Quad.

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WHAT AILS HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA?

GRAMESH



Professor, Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore

In a seminar on education technology, in a lighter vein I told the audience: "If I say I have leaked out papers of the Class 12 exam, people will be ready to pay me hefty charges. If I say I have the BA Economics final year exam paper from your university, nobody will be willing to pay me even the photocopying charges." This is the value of graduate education in India. Peter Drucker once said that even for the most successful Fortune 500 companies, the strategies that work for them then will not work in the next decade. Governments pursue with diligence decades-old policies that are not even successful ones. Poorly designed policy that is efficiently implemented does further damage by creating rent-seeking stakeholders. Invariably, they take refuge under arguments that cite the rural poor.

All-round failure: The most successful impact of the liberalised education policy has been the promotion of engineering and medical colleges, which used to be the privilege of a few. The colleges mushroomed, but did help in the growth of the software industry and globalisation of manufacturers. The qual-

ity varied widely, but because the students came through stiff competition in Class 12, decent standards were maintained. In the end, the market mechanism that helped these institutions grow took a reverse swing, forcing the colleges through a churn.

Arts and science education, the backbone of any undergraduate and graduate programme, took a complete beating. Given that education is always seen as employment-driven, it was always market-driven. In the 1970s and 80s, it was B.Com; later it was BBA and MBA. In fact, even the most glamorous subject, economics, got hit by its own principles of market economics and had no takers. Subjects like mathematics, physics and chemistry suffered the same fate, as did the poor cousins history, sociology, literature, etc. About two generations of students missed quality arts and science subjects. It is an all-round failure that is difficult to defend.

Universities all over India glossed over the quality of education in the past few decades. Delhi University is like an island in ensuring quality, including in its affiliated colleges, and the tale of

high cut-off scores is an annual feature. A few years ago, I was asked to study the finances of universities by a state government. I found that their main source of revenue is affiliation fees, examination and certification fees. Unfortunately, for the affiliation fees universities collect, they do not provide any support in terms of quality improvement or quality control. Colleges became their clients rather than regulated entities. This 'revenue model' did lead to mushrooming of colleges and helped take higher education to rural areas, but quality was sacrificed. Under the new National Education Policy 2020, universities will be asked questions because the policy promises quality and choice.

Service quality gap: One argument against the NEP is that small block-level colleges will not be able to survive. In any other industry, they would have perished, but education be-



A few years ago, I was asked to study the finances of universities by a state government. I found that their main source of revenue is affiliation, examination and certification fees. Unfortunately, for the money that the universities collect, they do not provide any support in terms of quality control or improvement

ing an imperfect market, they thrive. The investors bask under this very same argument of equity that is antithetical to what they do. In my study, I found professors have very light loads and teach the same things. It is a network of stakeholders with vested interests.

I found the infrastructural capacities, especially in universities, grossly underutilised. In colleges and more in universities, there are some rooms reserved only for HODs as in the Central Court of Wimbledon. In my study, I recommended to the state that all universities there be integrated through virtual classrooms, and expert or popular teachers be allowed to teach students of other universities. The choice of teachers and university should be left to the students. This will expose straightaway the capacities of the teachers. My desire was to create a market for teachers but this would have exposed those who have rusted. Do you think teachers will accept this?

Since Independence they have been delivering a standard menu. If you opt for the science stream, you can only do this and you are ineligible to take economics courses. Constraint of teaching resources will be binding and larger colleges will survive. Maybe smaller colleges can offer basic courses or offer specialised subjects like arts or music, or even skills courses. Students can go to larger colleges for more

specialised areas. It throws up a world of opportunities. But all these require creative thinking and collaborative efforts, which means getting uprooted from one's comfort zone and sharing revenue. Hence, they invent spurious arguments.

When some elites from diverse profiles speak, they take the name of the poor, and the label of poverty and equity. But the underlying meanings have to be understood and addressed. Some samplers: a) Where will the poor students from rural areas go? This means, what will happen to the investment on the real estate and to the teachers who have found captive students? b) How can a college offer so many courses? It means colleges decide the combo offer and the students can take or leave it. A restaurant can say we will serve only a fixed menu, but a college? In the US, you join a programme, not a course, and can take a range of subjects. Students come out of universities as complete learners.

In a democracy, everybody is entitled to not just opinions but also prejudices. When one falls sick, he would go to astrologers, gurus and local vaid, but finally he would go to a specialist for treatment. Similarly, please listen to your favourites including actors, but finally do pay attention to the advice of educationists and experts.

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MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Food wastage unacceptable

This is with reference to 1,550 tonnes food grains wasted during lockdown (Oct 5). When hapless migrant workers and others rendered jobless due to the lockdown had to starve, the sheer negligence of the FC is unacceptable.

AM Chakravarty, Hyderabad

Improve storage infra

Even after seven decades of Independence, the storage infrastructure is poor. While political parties are agitating over lack of guarantees on government procurement in the farm Bills, the reality is the unardonable wastage of precious food grains procured. The government should wake up and initiate measures to improve storage infrastructure on a war footing.

R Sriramprasad, Bengaluru

Kudos to panchayat head

This is with reference to This panchayat president takes transparency to doorsteps (Oct 5). Very often, we read about corruption from top to bottom. So it is heartening to know that a young panchayat president in Tamil Nadu with an MCA degree gave the income and expenditure accounts report of his local body to households in his village.

K Jayanthi, Chennai

Cong misinformation

This is with reference to Will bin farm laws if Cong wrests Centre, says Rahul (Oct 5). This is mischievous misinformation about laws that are advantageous for the farming community. People are seeing through the designs of the Congress.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Eloquent image

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the Punjab CM participated in a tractor rally on Sunday. The picture accompanying the front-page article shows that Rahul and the CM needed a cushioned seat to sit on. An image conveys more than a thousand words. It shows who they really are.

Rajendran Neelakantan Pillai, Panoor

No sympathy for the Don

US President Donald Trump's efforts to generate sympathy are unlikely to succeed as his strategy to fight the virus was a theatre of the absurd (It is the turn of a biological virus to disrupt US polls, Oct 5). He even had the audacity to mock his challenger Joe Biden for wearing a mask.

C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

Biden deserves to win

The POTUS should see the writing on the wall and refrain from vicious lies to ascend the throne once again. See the magnanimity of Biden who said he would not attack Trump during his convalescence period. The Democrat deserves to win.

K Nehru Patnaik, Visakhapatnam

The paintings of Mysore

This is with reference to Chitra Mantapa: Reminiscence of Mysore paintings (Oct 5). The article gave a vivid description of the art in the temple. It was interesting to know that the paintings of various North Indian religious sites and places of architectural value were drawn based on descriptions by the Madhwa saint Subbaraya Dasa who had visited them.

R D N Rao, Hyderabad

Labour reforms necessary

This is with reference to Labour reforms can help reshape India's growth trajectory (Oct 5). As India is expected to have the largest working population in the world in the current decade, the article has highlighted the indispensability of reforms in labour laws, in the interests of workers as well as the industry.

Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

Nutrition and MNREGA

This is with reference to Get nutrition from your own backyard, govt will pay (Oct 5). The one-time payment of ₹2,600 per family by the Karnataka government to help the rural poor grow vegetables in their backyard under the MNREGA scheme would go a long way in helping them.

V N Subramanyam, Bengaluru



Multiple claimants for OBC votes in Bihar may trouble big parties

RLSP, JAP understanding may pose threat to NDA, Grand Alliance

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

WITH the caste politics set to dominate the Bihar Assembly elections once again, the crucial Other Backward Castes (OBC) vote-bank is poised for multiple claimants amid the rise of the political aspirations among the fringe players outside the two alliances — the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance).

While the upper castes and the Muslims are likely to consolidate based on the set patterns in Bihar, the RJD and the JD(U) may have to face up with new competitors for their traditional support base. The Mahagathbandhan consisting of the RJD-Congress-Left will, as per the past pattern, be seeking consolidations of the Muslim-Yadav-Dalit vote base, besides making determined a bid to make inroads in the extremely backward caste segments. The NDA, on the other hand, will bank to polarise the upper castes, non-Yadav OBC, and Dalits. Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav with his Jan Adhikar Party (JAP) is seeking understanding with smaller parties to emerge as a political force in the state. With the support base across the Purnia-Madhepura region of Bihar, considered most backward in the state, Pappu Yadav is a poll veteran, with stints in the RJD and the Congress in the past.

The Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), led by former Union minister Upendra Kushwaha banking on the sizable Koeri caste, is aiming to establish a pan-Bihar presence. With the Koeri caste vote base spread out across the state, the RLSP is seen capable to cut into the support bases of the larger parties. The understanding between the RLSP and the JAP could pose a serious threat to both the NDA and the Grand Alliance in a few pockets of the state. Along with Mukesh Sahani of the Vikassheel Insaan Party, there is a likelihood of the Bihar polls witnessing a fresh crop of the political leaders, vying to demonstrate their electoral capabilities to position them with the bargaining power in future elections.

With the BJP and JD(U) also bracing to consolidate the non-Yadav vote base by fielding a large number of candidates from smaller castes, RJD leader CM Tejashwi Yadav will have a task cut out to cement hold over Yadavs. During the heydays of the RJD, Rajputs in certain pockets used to combine with the Muslim-Yadav equations.



LJP vice-president Suraj Bhan Singh (left) welcomes RSS leader from Nawada Ranjeet Kumar (centre) into the party in Patna on Monday | PTI

Paswan Jr's revolt part of BJP's Bihar gambit

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

THE Lok Janshakti Party's decision on Sunday to contest in 143 Assembly seats in order to hurt NDA partner Janata Dal (United)'s prospects, has actually been scripted by the Bharatiya Janata Party, sources in the saffron party said.

"At the national level, we have a strong alliance with the BJP. At the state level we have decided to contest alone due to our differences with the JD(U)," an LJP statement said while announcing the decision.

A recent slogan, "Modi tujhe bair nahin, Nitish teri khair nahin" (No enmity with Modi but no sparing Nitish)," put up through anonymous posters in Patna, captures the LJP's political line. Sources said the BJP nudged the LJP as the saffron party wants to return the humiliation of 2013, when Nitish pulled out his party from the NDA after the BJP decided to project Narendra Modi as its prime ministerial candidate for the 2014 general elections.

"History repeats itself in politics. What the LJP has done to the JD(U) now is what Nitish did to the BJP in 2013, when he refused to accept Modi's leadership for the 2014 elections," a senior NDA leader said.

The BJP and the LJP hope to win enough seats, enabling them to dump the JD(U) after the elections. The saffron party, the junior partner in Bihar, has long been itching to emerge out of Nitish's shadow and the tacit support to the LJP is aimed at becoming the bigger partner after a positive poll outcome.

The fact that the BJP has not asked the LJP to desist from at-

tacking Nitish has not been lost on anyone. "The BJP never asked the LJP to stop giving statements to the media against the CM," the sources said.

Those privy to developments said Chirag met Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda in Delhi on Saturday, a day before announcing his divorce from the NDA in Bihar.

The pivot on which the BJP's plan to use the LJP as the cat's paw rests is an internal survey the saffron party conducted in over 100 constituencies, which is understood to have shown a strong anti-incumbency against Nitish. The move is also based on caste calculations. The JD(U) vote base and the LJP overlap to some extent as both vie for Dalit, mahadalit and backward votes. Although LJP is yet to declare the seats it will contest, sources said the party will pick constituencies where it can damage the JD(U) the most.

Some seats the LJP is eyeing to queer the JD(U)'s pitch in are Agiaon in Bhojpur, Masaudhi in Patna, Jhajha in Jamui, Lalgaon in Vaishali, Alauli in Gopalganj, Bacchabara in Samastipur, Mahisi in Madhepura and Belaganj in Gaya. In all of them, Dalit votes are 40-50%.

Sources said as the LJP does not have adequate candidates to field from the 143 constituencies it wishes to contest, it will field BJP members as proxies.

"As the BJP lacks a face to match Nitish's, revolting against the JD(U) will have to revolve around the Dalit votes. In such a situation the alliance with the LJP, which has a strong Dalit vote bank, will come in handy," said political analyst Anil Kumar.

Cong may field all its sitting MLAs

New Delhi: The Congress is expected to field its all sitting MLAs in the Bihar Assembly polls, with the names of candidates for the first phase to be announced soon. The screening committee held a meeting on Sunday to finalise the list of the candidates for the first phase on October 28. The last date for filing nomination for the first phase is October 8. As part of the Grand Alliance, the Congress will contest on 70 seats in the 243 Assembly.

Chirag writes emotional letter

Patna: A day after walking out from the Bihar NDA to contest the Assembly polls alone against the JD(U), LJP chief Chirag Paswan wrote an emotional open letter to his party workers on Monday, saying "a single vote given to the candidates of JD(U) will force your child to flee tomorrow". On walking out from the NDA, Paswan said: "This is a defining moment in the history of Bihar, and it is a question of the lives and deaths of 12 crore people of the state." "If the purpose is right, then millions of people will come with you, and I am sure, with the blessings of my father and mother and all of you, there is still a long way to go and we will succeed," he said.

Wives of tainted RJD MLAs given tickets

Patna: Tejashwi Yadav-led RJD claimed to have not given tickets to any tainted candidate, but remained generous when it comes to giving tickets to the wives of party's two former tainted MLAs on Monday. RJD MLA Rajballabh Yadav, the husband of Vibha Devi, is in jail after being sentenced with life imprisonment in a case of rape of a minor girl registered in 2016. Vibha Devi will fight from the Nawada constituency. The wife of ex-MLA from Sandesh Arun Yadav was also given a ticket. Yadav is absconding in a rape case. His wife, Kiran Devi, will contest from Sandesh seat.



IAF chief RKS Bhaduria addresses the media in New Delhi on Monday | PTI

IAF well positioned, China can't get better of us: Chief

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

INDIAN Air Force chief RKS Bhaduria on Monday said "China cannot have the better of us" in case of a conflict. Addressing the media ahead of the 88th Air Force Day on October 8, he also said that the IAF was also ready for a two-front war.

The IAF is "well positioned" to deal with any threat and strong deployments have been made in all relevant areas, Air Chief Marshal Bhaduria said, referring to the border standoff in eastern Ladakh.

On the quick reaction of the Air Force after Chinese forces moved towards the LAC, he said, "Our immediate offensive deployment in response to the stand-off is indicative of our operational state today. We are determined to handle any contingency — undoubtedly our capability and intent would deter."

He said the IAF's airlift capability was also brought into focus in rapid mobilization of troops and equipment to operational areas "at a pace

which our adversary didn't expect". "The induction of Rafale has given us an operational edge. The matrix of threat facing the country is complex. The IAF is transforming at a rapid pace."

"The next three months in eastern Ladakh will largely depend on how the talks will progress. We see an effort to dig in (by the Chinese). We have made deployment in all relevant areas... There is no question of underestimating the adversary," Bhaduria said.

The Air Chief affirmed the indigenous impetus was a must for strategic autonomy of the country and said the IAF has decided to focus on inducting indigenous combat aircraft as the mainstay of the force by next decade.

"The year 2027 is the targeted timeline for and Advance Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). We've placed our trust in Light Combat Aircraft and in the next five years, we'll commence induction of 83 LCA Mark 1As," he said.

Induction of Rafale has given us an operational edge. The Indian Air Force is transforming at a rapid pace
Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria

Secret proceedings in UK are delaying Mallya's extradition, Centre tells SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday asked the lawyer of Vijay Mallya to inform it about the secret ongoing proceedings in the UK because of which liquor baron's extradition is delayed.

The move by the court came after the MEA informed the bench through advocate Rajat Nair that government was neither aware of the nature of the proceedings nor was a party to it in the UK Supreme Court,

which had cleared the extradition of Mallya to India.

Advocate Ankur Saigal, appearing for Mallya, told the apex court that he was not aware what kind of proceedings are going on.

The bench has now slated the hearing on November 2 and directed the MEA to ensure Mallya's presence in the courtroom on that day.

The court had already rejected Mallya's plea seeking re-

view of 2017 verdict holding him guilty for contempt of court. Mallya had sought a review of its May 2017 order holding him guilty of contempt for transferring \$40 million to his children in violation of the court's order.

Mallya, promoter of the defunct Kingfisher Airlines has been charged with alleged fraud and money laundering amounting to estimated ₹9,000 crore. He is presently in the UK.



Guidelines on reopening of schools call for flexibility, ensuring smooth transition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Monday released guidelines for reopening schools from October 15, that included thorough cleaning and disinfection of premises, flexibility in attendance, no assessment for up to three weeks and ensuring a smooth transition from home-based schooling during Covid-19 lockdown to formal schooling. It also asked states and UTs to frame their SOPs for health and safety precautions based on their local requirements.

The government also said it will soon roll out a renewed campaign that aims to spread awareness about "appropriate Covid-19 behaviour", in view of the forthcoming festive season and further unlocking of public activities.

"Schools must arrange and implement for thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all areas, furniture, equipment, stationery, storage, plaaallowater tanks, kitchens, canteen,

washroom, laboratories, libraries, on school campus and ensure airflow in indoor space," the Education Ministry said in a set of guidelines for the gradual reopening of schools from October 15.

It recommended that schools adopt flexible attendance and sick leave policies. "There shall be no assessment up to 2-3 weeks of school reopening and use of ICT and online learning shall continue to be encouraged," it said.

On Tuesday, Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla will chair a meeting to chart out the new plan with senior officials. The meeting is likely to be attended by officials of the NDMA, I&B Ministry, chiefs of Central Armed Police Forces, field offices of the home ministry and few others.

A new, enhanced public campaign for ensuring self-sanitisation, physical distancing and wearing of masks is essential as the Centre has issued guidelines for further opening up," an official said.



Frame SOPs

It also asked states and UTs to frame their SOPs for health and safety precautions based on their local requirements

SC seeks revised response on interest waiver from govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday said the affidavit filed by the Centre with respect to the waiver of compound interests on loans under moratorium does not deal with several issues raised by various petitioners and asked the government and the RBI to submit a revised response by October 13.

EXPRESS READ

71 civilians died during police operations in 2019

New Delhi: As many as 71 civilians died during police operations last year and about 70% of casualties were from just two states. While 33 people were killed in J&K, 15 were killed in Maharashtra, according to the latest NCRB report of 2019. Of the total deaths in Kashmir, highest casualties (12) were reported to have occurred in cross-border firing, followed by 11 in firing by 'anti-nationals'. In the previous year, 112 people died during police operations and 74 of them died in J&K, followed by 14 from Tamil Nadu and 11 from Telangana. The increase in deaths in cross-border firing, from zero in 2018 to 12 in 2019 corresponds to the massive rise in the number of ceasefire violations between India and Pakistan in the last year following the Pulwama attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan took note of the fact that the Centre's affidavit is silent regarding sector-specific measures recommended by the KV Kamath Committee report and also doesn't share details about the steps taken for implementation of its own policy decisions.



The court was hearing petitions seeking waiver of interests on payments of EMIs between March and August 31, as announced by RBI due to Covid-19 pandemic. The court asked the Centre and the RBI to place on record policy decisions and guidelines issued to implement their plans.

Criminal cases against lawmakers increased by 700 in last 2 years, says report in top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

DESPITE the Supreme Court monitoring the disposal of criminal cases against present and former lawmakers, there has been an increase of 700 cases against them in the last two years.

In a report filed before the court, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria said in December 2018, these cases were 4,122, while as on date, the cases have now increased to 4,859. The report was submitted in a petition filed in 2016 by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay seeking speedy disposal of cases against MPs and MLAs. At the last hearing, a bench by Justice N V Ramana had directed all HCs to formulate action plans to fasten the

trial of pending cases against the lawmakers.

"It is, therefore, submitted that strict monitoring, at the micro-level, by the high courts is necessary to ensure expeditious disposal of the cases against legislators," Hansaria said. UP topped the list, with 1,347 cases awaiting final disposal, followed by Bihar with 557 and Odisha with 445 cases as per the report.

Hansaria disclosed details of action plans submitted by the HCs, except two, to ensure the speedy disposal of cases before the trial courts as well as HCs. An analysis, he said, showed that many HCs fa-

voured the constitution of special courts in each district, both at the sessions and magisterial levels. He said all the HCs supported the idea of a safe and secure witness examination room, but they mentioned non-availability of funds as one of the reasons for being unable to provide this facility at the moment.

Apart from accepting other measures suggested by Hansaria, HCs have agreed to hold online proceedings of these matters. Hansaria's report states that most of the HCs have framed rules for e-conferencing, while some are in the process of finalising the same.

It is submitted that strict monitoring, at the micro-level, by the high courts is necessary to ensure expeditious disposal of the cases against legislators — Vijay Hansaria, senior advocate

Peace negotiator of Afghanistan to visit India today

NEW DELHI: Abdullah Abdullah, one of the chief negotiators with the Taliban in the intra-Afghan peace dialogue, will visit India on Tuesday to strengthen consensus and garner support for Afghan peace process.

Sources said that Abdullah will try and persuade the Indian side to talk to the Taliban as well. India, as a matter of policy, does not sit down to negotiate with individuals or bodies which are designated as terrorists.

"The aim of the trip is to attract support for the Afghan peace and strengthen regional consensus. Abdullah will meet with Indian officials on Afghan peace and bilateral relations between Afghanistan and India," Abdullah's spokesman Fraidoon Khwazoon said.

The visit is close on the heels of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's virtual participation in the opening ceremony of the peace process in Doha. "Afghan soil should never be used for carrying out anti-India activities. India supports the need for immediate ceasefire in order to establish long-lasting peace in Afghanistan," Jaishankar had said. ENS

Modi govt has weakened India by anti-national policies, says Rahul

Cong leader was protesting against farm Bills in Punjab for second consecutive day

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi, on the second day of his three-day Kheti Bachao Yatra against three farm laws, said the Chinese had dared to enter India and kill Indian soldiers because the Modi government had "weakened our nation with its anti-national policies and actions, of which the farm laws were the latest example".

China had realised that Modi had weakened India, and had taken advantage of this to take control of 1,200 km of our land, he said.

Addressing a gathering at Samana in Patiala district after his tractor rally, Rahul said the PM had broken the backbone of the country, whose economic growth had plummeted from 9 per cent under Manmohan Singh to -2.4% at present.

Accusing Modi of ruining the country to help his capitalist and industrialist friends, Rahul said India was going backward, which the Chinese had seen. "Why else would China dare enter our territory? How could they kill 20 of our soldiers, who were on our side of the LAC, if the Chinese did not enter India, as Modi claims?" asked Rahul, warning the people that they could not shut their eyes to these facts.

Addressing a rally at Bhanigarh in Sangrur, he compared the NDA government with East India Company, as he said if the Centre succeeds in breaking the backbone of the farmers, the nation would be enslaved to industrialists like Ambani and Adani. "The Modi government is doing to India what the East India Company had done. What people buy now for ₹10 will cost them ₹50 under the corporate regime, and the money will go into the pockets of the corporate houses,"

Rahul said there was no need to bring these Bills at the time of the coronavirus pandemic, but Modi thought if such Bills are introduced at the time of coronavirus, the farmers will be unable to come out of their houses and protest. "It is not Ambani and Adani who create jobs but small businesses and MSMEs, which Modi has been ruining with his ill-conceived moves like demonetisation and the GST", he said.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi along with CM Capt. Amarinder Singh during 'Kheti Bachao Yatra' in Sangrur, Punjab | PTI

The Modi government is doing to India what the East India Company had done. What people buy now for ₹10 will cost them ₹50 under the corporate regime, and the money will go into the pockets of the corporate houses

Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

'No entry' stickers for politicians

Villagers of Gurusar village in Gidderbaha subdivision in Muktsar district of Punjab, the home district of former CM Parkash Singh Badal have decided not to allow any politician to visit their residences. They have pasted 'No Entry' stickers outside their houses and put flags of Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU). This despite the fact that the Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal is currently taking out tractor rallies across the state in support of the farmers. The AAP is also backing farmers demanding that the Centre should withdraw the three farm laws. The 'no entry' stickers in Punjabi reads, "Till the time the anti-farmers bills are not taken back, BKU unit Gurusar won't allow any party to enter any house."

Sidhu, 2 RS MPs skip rally, Rawat snubbed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chandigarh

THE factional fight in Punjab Congress was on full display on the second day of Rahul Gandhi's tractor rally at Sangrur with dissident former minister Navjot Singh Sidhu missing in action and newly appointed Punjab Congress in-charge Harish Rawat, seen by many as mender-in-chief, facing the heat.

Sidhu unexpectedly chose to skip the rally after his fiery speech at Moga on Sunday, taking a dig at his own party's government. However, the absence of Congress Rajya Sabha MPs Partap Singh Bajwa and S S Dullu, who in the recent past had been at loggerheads with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh over his style of functioning, was on expected lines.

Rawat, on the other hand, could not find place on the stage on Monday. Seated on the stage along with Rahul

were Amarinder, former CM Rajinder Kaur Bhattal, state cabinet ministers Balbir Singh Sidhu and Vijay Inder Singal and Haryana MP Deepender Singh Hooda.

It is learnt that Sidhu is upset as he may not get any position in the party or the state cabinet as of now. Rawat said it was for the chief minister to take a call who should, or shouldn't, be in the cabinet.

Bajwa and Dullu were conspicuous by their absence from Rahul's tractor rallies on both days. Incidentally, both are considered close to Rahul as well as Priyanka Gandhi. When contacted, Bajwa declined to speak on the matter while Dullu was not available for comments. Both had criticised Amarinder earlier over hooch tragedy and a host of other issues.

Also, the Rahul will now be arriving for a day-long visit to Haryana on Tuesday instead of earlier two days.



Two CRPF personnel shot dead, three injured in Lakshar attack in Srinagar

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

TWO motorcycle-borne Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants opened indiscriminate fire on a security forces party in Nowgam area on Monday killing two CRPF personnel and injuring three others, police said. The injured include an assistant sub-inspector of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they said.

Militants fired upon a security forces party near Kandizal Bridge in Nowgam, Srinagar this afternoon, a police official said.

He said five CRPF personnel, including an ASI, were injured in the firing. The injured personnel were taken to the Army's 92 base hospital, where the doctors declared two of them — Constables Shalinder Pratap Singh and



Security forces inspect the spot of a militant attack in Pulwama | PTI

Devendra Kumar Tripathi — brought dead, official said.

He said the other three personnel — ASI Gorrakh Nath, Constable Kirgairan and Constable James — are undergoing treatment and their condition is stated to be stable.

The militants fled the spot after the attack. Soon after the incident, the area was cordoned off and a manhunt was

No rape with Hathras victim, says AMU hospital final report

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

REFUTING gang rape, the department of forensic medicine of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Hospital (JNMCH) of Aligarh Muslim University has written to the Hathras police that in its final opinion, there were no signs to suggest vaginal or anal intercourse with the victim. She succumbed to her injuries on September 29 at Delhi's Safdarjung hospital.

Sources said the department added in its correspondence that there was clear evidence of physical assault (injuries over the neck and the spine) of the victim.

The Hathras police had sought the opinion of the forensic medicine department of JLN Medical College and Hospital on a report of the Agra Forensic Science Laboratory.

The victim girl was taken to JNL Medical College the same day when the incident had occurred on September 14. In the preliminary report, the doctor conducting the medical examination had written, "On the basis of local examination, I am of the opinion that there are signs of use of force. However, opinion regarding penetration and intercourse is subject to the pending availability of FSL reports." The preliminary report had 'do not know' remarks about presence of semen, though it also noted the patient had 'loss of consciousness at the time of the incident' and 'pain during or after incident'.

The examination was carried out on September 22, the day the girl spoke to the police for the first time since the incident after regaining consciousness in the hospital. The same day, the college's neurosurgery department head wrote to the casualty medical officer of the hospital's emergency and trauma centre to arrange a magistrate to record the victim's statement as her condition was critical, which later became her 'dying declaration'. In her statement



AAP MP Sanjay Singh meets the family members of the victim in Hathras | PTI

to the magistrate, the girl said she was gang raped. As per the medico-legal report (MLR), the victim claimed that she was sexually assaulted by four known persons of the same village when she was doing some work in the fields. The MLR, recorded by a doctor, was the first document about her status. It had found no 'injuries' or 'abnormality' of pudenda (woman's external genitals), and had ruled that the cervix and vagina were "healthy".

The forensic report, prepared by a lab, was based on samples that had been sent 11 days after the incident, as earlier reported. The delay in sending forensic samples to FSL in Agra was attributed to the fact that the initial FIR had no mention of gangrape and that it spoke only of physical assault and attempted murder by one person named Sandeep. The first FIR was lodged by the victim's brother after an hour of the incident. After her statement on September 22, additional charges of gang rape were added to the FIR and samples were taken. Eight days had already passed by then.

On the basis of that forensic report, which did not find the presence of semen, Additional Director General (law and order) of UP Police, Prashant Kumar, had ruled out rape.

Priyanka's manhandling: NCW seeks explanation

The NCW has sought an explanation from the UP police over the alleged manhandling of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra while she was on her way to Hathras to meet the family of a gang-raped victim. "@NCWIndia condemns the alleged manhandling of #PriyankaGandhi by police while she was on her way to #Hathras. This insensitive behaviour is totally unacceptable. Considering the sensitivity of the matter, our Chairperson @sharmarekha has sought a reply from @dgpup 'at the earliest,' the NCW tweeted.

Civil society seeks CM's removal

Condemning the Hathras rape case and the subsequent rape cases reported from UP, the feminists, civil society organisations and eminent citizens have said CM Yogi Adityanath should resign because of his 'indifferent' attitude.

WEST BENGAL

CM Mamata not to attend Centre's meet on Gorkhaland

PRANAB MONDAL @Kolkata

THE state government has decided not to send any representative to attend the meeting convened by the Centre to discuss the Gorkhaland issue on October 7 alleging the central government's decision was arbitrary.

The Centre convened the meeting asking the home secretary, the district magistrate of Darjeeling and Bimal Gurung faction of the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM), a BJP ally, to be present. This is the first time that the BJP-led Centre will convene an official meeting without ambiguity on Gorkhaland.

"The Centre did not discuss the issue with us before convening the meeting. Besides,

a state government bureaucrat cannot be asked to attend a Centre's meeting without the state concerned government's consent," said an official of the state government.

Since 2009 when the BJP bagged victory in Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat, the party has been cautious with the Gorkhaland issue in its poll manifestos. In 2009 and 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP had said its manifesto that the party will sympathetically examine and appropriately consider the long pending demand of the Gorkhas.

In 2019 general election, the saffron camp promised its poll manifesto that the party is committed to find a permanent political solution to the issues of Darjeeling Hills.



Process to set up first tiger safari starts

Following the Centre's nod to Uttarakhand's first tiger safari, the state government has started the process to set up the eco-tourism facility in full swing. For this, two enclosures spread in around 106 hectares near Kotdwar in Corbett landscape will be developed wherein, five tigers will be kept. According to a highly placed TOI source, an amount of Rs 21 crore is being shelled out for this project. Notably, the Central Zoo Authority and the NTCA had given clearance for tiger safari, which aims at a sure-shot display of tigers to the visitors, last year. The two enclosures would have leopards as well as tigers according to forest officials.



VINEET UPADHYAY

Our correspondent in Dehradun

vineet.upadhyay@newindianexpress.com

DEHRADUN DIARY

1st pine needle-based electricity project in U'khand

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat last week inaugurated the state's first dry pine needle-based electricity generation project in Uttarkashi district. Inaugurating the 25 KW power generation project at Chakon Dhanari village in Dunda area, Rawat said it would be of great utility as dry pine needles, also called pinul, are a major cause of forest fires in the state. "Generating electricity from dry pine needles or pinul will not just save our forests but also create employment opportunities for the local population," the chief minister said. He added that with this power generation project, forests and animals will be protected. More than 23 lakh metric tonnes of pine needles are produced in the state annually, from which about 200 megawatts of electricity can be produced.

Human-snake conflict hotspots to be mapped

In a first, Uttarakhand will be mapping human-snake conflict hotspots in Kumaon region. The forest department will conduct a three-year long project to learn more about the different species of snakes found in the region. Under the project named 'Community based human-snake conflict mitigation in Kumaon Himalayas of Uttarakhand, India', the department aims to train 750 locals from 250 villages, considered high-risk of the human-snake conflict. As part of the project, three people from each high-risk village will be trained.



Will revive one river in every district: CM

Uttarakhand government has started work to revive one Himalayan river in every district, announced Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. He added that the goal is to revive one river in every district. An effort is being made to revive more than 400 water bodies in the area of Garuda Ganga river in Bageshwar district. Many works in the area such as plantation of broad leaf, trenches, check dams are being done. "Mountains, glaciers, rivers, water bodies, forests are all our priceless heritage. In past years, revival work of water bodies in the state has been done on a large scale," CM said.

Trump prepares to leave hospital in show of strength ahead of polls

Questions swirl around his health amid failure to release info such as findings of lung scans

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump tweeted at midnight (IST) that he will be leaving after six hours the military hospital where he is being treated for Covid-19, a day after he briefly ventured out while contagious to salute cheering supporters by motorcade — an outing that disregarded precautions meant to contain the virus that has killed more than 209,000 Americans.

The scale of the outbreak within the White House itself was still being uncovered Monday, as press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said she tested positive in the morning. Two other press office aides also contracted Covid-19.

White House officials said Trump was anxious to be released after three nights at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where doctors revealed on Sunday that his blood oxygen level had dropped suddenly twice in recent days and that they gave him a steroid typically only recommended for the very sick. Still, the doctors said Trump's health was improving and he could be discharged as early as Monday to continue the remainder of his treatment at the White House.

Trump "is ready to get back to a normal work schedule" and was optimistic about a Monday release, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows told Fox News. He said a determination would be made after further evaluation by his medical team later Monday.

Less than one month before Election Day, Trump was eager to project strength despite his illness. The still-infectious president surprised supporters who had gathered outside the hospital, riding by Sunday in a black SUV with the windows rolled up. Secret Service agents inside the vehicle could be seen in masks.

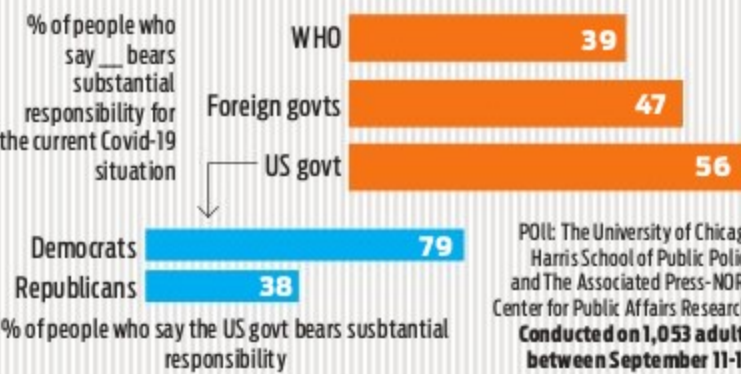
The move capped a weekend of contradictions that fueled confusion about Trump's



US President Donald Trump in his conference room at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland | WHITE HOUSE VIA AFP

AMERICANS BLAME U.S. GOVT MORE THAN FOREIGN POWERS FOR VIRUS CRISIS

More Americans blame the US government instead of foreign nations for the coronavirus crisis in the US, a rebuke to the Trump administration's contention that China or other nations are most at fault, a new poll shows



health, which has imperiled the leadership of the U.S. government and upended the final stages of the presidential campaign. While Trump's physician offered a rosy prognosis on his condition, his briefings lacked basic information, including the findings of lung scans, or were quickly muddled by more serious assessments of the president's health by other officials.

Physician calls Trump jaunt outside hospital insane

In a short video released by the White House on Sunday, Trump insisted he understood the gravity of the moment. But his actions moments later,

by leaving the hospital and sitting inside the SUV with others, suggested otherwise.

"This is insanity," tweeted Dr James Phillips, a physician at Walter Reed who has often criticised Trump's handling of the pandemic. "Every single person in the vehicle during that completely unnecessary presidential 'drive-by' just now has to be quarantined for 14 days. They might get sick. They may die."

A White House spokesman said Trump's trip outside the hospital "was cleared by the medical team as safe to do." He said precautions were taken, including using personal protection equipment. AP

Treatment suggests Don sicker than we know: Experts

WASHINGTON

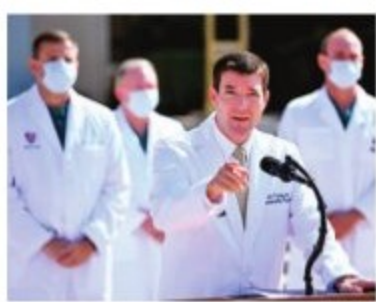
DONALD Trump's doctors and the White House are painting a rosy picture of the US president's health. But outside experts are not convinced, the *New York Times* reported.

There were signs that Trump is experiencing a more severe form of Covid-19 than what his doctors let on, physicians said.

"This is no longer aspirationally positive," Dr Esther Choo, a professor of emergency medicine at Oregon Health & Science University, told the *Times* in reference to the doctors' statements. "And it's much more than just an 'abundance of caution' kind of thing."

The prescription of dexamethasone for Trump has drawn the most scrutiny. "The dexamethasone is the most mystifying of the drugs we're seeing him being given at this point," said Dr Thomas McGinn from Northwell Health. Only when a Covid-19 patient appears to be deteriorating is the drug prescribed.

Other experts told the *Times* it is possible Trump is deciding his own medical treatments and demanding high-strength drugs.

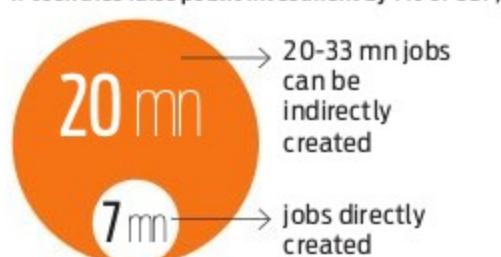


White House physician Sean Conley

In marked reversal, IMF calls for more public spending

Public investment should play a "central role" in the recovery of both emerging and advanced economies from the coronavirus downturn, the IMF said on Monday ahead of its fall meetings. The fund usually cautions against public spending as it might increase government debt, which the IMF sees as unhealthy

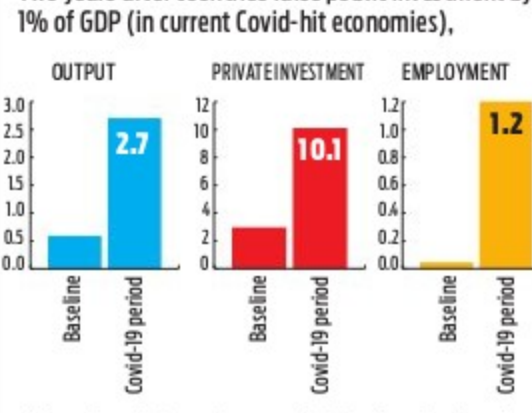
If countries raise public investment by 1% of GDP,



2% GDP itself could increase by over 2% in current conditions after the 1% public investment, the IMF said

Source: IMF estimates based on a "cross-country" sample of 4 lakh firms

Two years after countries raise public investment by 1% of GDP (in current Covid-hit economies),



Source: IMF estimates

Low interest rates globally also signal that the time is right to invest. Savings are plenty, the private sector is in waiting mode, and many people are unemployed and able to take up jobs created through public investment. Private investment is depressed, owing to acute uncertainty on the future of the pandemic and the economic outlook

Vitor Gaspar, Paolo Mauro, Catherine Pattillo, and Raphael Espinoza, in an IMF blog post

EXPRESS READ



Obscure works by crime writers Agatha Christie, Raymond Chandler published this week

Two of crime fiction's most famous storytellers, Raymond Chandler and Agatha Christie, also knew how to get a laugh. Chandler, beyond the terse and cynical narratives of such Philip Marlowe novels as *The Big Sleep* and *The Long Goodbye*, was able to poke fun at his own life. His rarely seen *Advice to an Employer* is a list of suggestions for how you can ruin the day for those stuck on your payroll, including "If you cannot find anything, just roar." Christie's detective Hercule Poirot enjoys an amusing holiday in the 1923 story *Christmas Adventure*, only now being released in the US. It's an easygoing tale of a Christmas gathering and a foiled attempt to fool the wily sleuth. When a guest calls out to him, "Come down at once, please. Someone's been killed," Poirot calmly replies, "Aha, this is serious." Both pieces appear in the new issue of *Strand Magazine*, a quarterly which has published obscure work by famous writers.

Rishi backs Boris, says he's not gunning for the PM job

LONDON

BRITISH finance minister Rishi Sunak on Monday denied he was eyeing up the job of his beleaguered boss, Boris Johnson, and vowed to uphold his "sacred responsibility" of rebalancing the books after a splurge of coronavirus spending.

The chancellor of the exchequer is being portrayed as a leader-in-waiting by some Conservative lawmakers and right-wing commentators, after resisting stricter curbs on public life to counter the Covid-19 crisis.

But speaking at the Conservatives' annual conference, Sunak downplayed any rift with the prime minister, acknowledging the "difficult trade-offs and decisions" forced upon Johnson's government as Britain endures the worst pandemic toll in Europe.

Asked if he was looking to move next door from the chancellor's residence at 11 Down-



Rishi Sunak (R) and Boris Johnson | AFP

ing Street, Sunak told a fringe event: "Definitely not, seeing what the prime minister has to deal with. It's a job hard enough for me to do."

The 40-year-old minister moved his young family into the residence over the summer, and said Johnson's dog Dylan was "my two daughters' favourite thing in the world... That has at least staved off me having to get a dog for a little while". In an earlier speech to the ruling party's virtual conference, Sunak paid credit to Johnson's "special and rare quality" of connecting with people.

Sunak has won plaudits for big-spending schemes designed to protect jobs. AFP

WHO believes 10% of world's population has had Covid-19

GENEVA

THE WHO estimated on Monday that 10 percent of the world has been infected by the new coronavirus -- way more than has been recorded -- as it mulled speeding up internal reforms.

To date, more than 35 million cases of Covid-19 have been registered worldwide, including some 1.04 million who have died, as per an AFP tally.

But the World Health Organization now estimates that around a tenth of the planet's 7.8 billion or so people have already been infected since the virus first surfaced in China late last year -- more than 20 times the official count.

"Our current best estimate tells us that about 10 percent of the global population may have been infected by this virus," WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told a special meeting of the agency's executive board.

He stressed that infection levels varied "from urban to rural, it varies between different groups." "But what it does mean is that the vast majority



People visit Bondi beach in Sydney, Australia, on Monday | AFP

of the world remains at risk," he warned.

'Wake-up call'

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus meanwhile told Monday's meeting that the pandemic should serve as a "wake-up call for all of us."

"We must all look in the mirror and ask what we can do better," he said. Tedros pushed back at criticism of the UN agency's handling of the pan-

demic, insisting it from the start had "worked around the clock to support countries to prepare and respond to this new virus."

Tedros, wearing a black face mask with a colourful pattern on the sides, also vigorously defended the reform process at the organisation over the past three years, but acknowledged it should be sped up. The executive board has representatives from 34 nations. AFP

ASIA MATTERS

MALAYSIA

PM quarantines after minister tests positive

Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said Monday he will self-quarantine after a Cabinet minister he was in contact with tested positive for the coronavirus, as new cases in the country hit a record high. Muhyiddin had chaired an Oct. 3 meeting attended by Religious Affairs Minister Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri, who confirmed Monday he has been hospitalized for treatment. The health ministry has warned that Malaysia is facing a new wave of virus cases as the outbreak has widened in recent days. New clusters have sprung up in many states amid increased travel to eastern Sabah state, a hotspot zone, for a state election last month. New virus cases hit a record daily high of 432 on Monday, bringing Malaysia's tally to 12,813 with 137 deaths.

MYANMAR

Gay pioneer stands in regional election

Outraged over ongoing discrimination in Myanmar, Myo Min Tun decided to stand as the first openly gay election candidate in a country where same-sex relations are illegal. His decision to enter the political fray came after transgender friends told him how they had suffered police harassment. The officers allegedly forced them to remove their bras and kneel in humiliating positions before touching them inappropriately, Myo Min Tun told AFP. "I realised there's no one in parliament to talk about this," he said.

THAILAND

Private pools, gourmet meals in luxury quarantine

A private infinity pool, gourmet meals -- and two temperature checks a day.

Welcome to five-star quarantine in Thailand, where well-heeled tourists can live in luxury while obeying some of the world's strictest anti-coronavirus measures. After barring visitors for six months, the tourism-reliant country is reopening to a small number of holidaymakers, with the first batch arriving in Phuket, a popular resort island, in the coming weeks. But before enjoying the beaches, the 300 tourists from China and Scandinavia will have to complete 14 days of compulsory quarantine, including two coronavirus tests, overseen by a "war room" of doctors and security guards. "It will be comfortable but I am afraid I might be anxious because of the confinement," said Jean-François, a French retiree living in Sweden.

Pakistan crackdown on opposition intensifies

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam and other top leaders of the Opposition PML-N party were charged with sedition and other serious cases for allegedly conspiring against the institutions of the army and judiciary, and inciting people against them.

The Lahore police registered a FIR on the complaint of a person on Monday citing Sharif's two recent speeches made through a video link from London in which the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo made blistering remarks targeting the powerful army.

Sharif - who left for London late last year after securing bail for medical treatment in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case and the Al Azizia case - has been targeting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led government led by PM Imran Khan as well as many state institutions, including the judiciary and the military.

Separately, a Pakistani court on Monday officially charged



Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif (top) and former President Asif Ali Zardari | AP



Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif (top) and former President Asif Ali Zardari | AP

the country's former President Asif Ali Zardari in two corruption cases, escalating the legal challenges facing the now leading opposition lawmaker and widower of assassinated former PM Benazir Bhutto.

Meanwhile, Firebrand cleric-cum-politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman has been unanimously appointed as the chief of the newly-formed Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). PTI

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public are hereby notified that SARAVANAN K Son of R. Karuppusamy, aged about 40 Years, presently Residing at No.1, 301, White House No.7, Bharatiya Street, North, ESI Ring Road, MGR Nagar, Mookondapalli, Tamilnadu-635126, now at Bengaluru has lost the ORIGINAL SALE DEED (dt:12.11.2014) and E-KATHA with respect to the Residential converted site bearing No.44, Katha No.102/44, E-Katha No.15300200501620100, Layout Known as Swarnashree Airport City situated at Chinnakannanahalli Village, Kundana hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, measuring 111.41 Sq Mtrs on 20.08.2020 while shifting from his Residential Home Yelahanka, Bengaluru to Residential Home, Hosur, Tamilnadu. I have lodged a Police complaint on 03.10.2020 in Yelahanka Police Station with respect to the same. The said documents if found please contact above address or SARAVANAN K, Contact Number: 9872457485.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has lost the below mentioned Property's Sale Deed vide document No. 2508/2003-04, Book-1, CD No. 86, dated: 09.05.2003, registered in the Office of Sub Registrar Krishnamurthy, Bengaluru. For the property scheduled below, from its present owner Mrs. BINDU RAJESH, W/o. Rajesh R Pillai, residing at: Shweta Villa, Plot No. 8, 8th Cross, 1st C Main, Sr M. V. Nagar, Kalkere Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore-560 016, which was executed by: SRI. SHEKARAPPA in favour of SRI. VINAYA CHANDRAN SHANKUNJI KURUP represented by his attorney holder Sri. C. S. S. Kurup. For which she has lodged a Police Complaint Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station vide No. 76A, dated: 24.09.2020 and if anyone find the document please kindly call my clients mobile No. 9811043632, namely Mrs. BINDU RAJESH. Y. V. SHANKAR, Advocate & Notary Public, Mobile No. 9449671458 Dt: 24-9-2020

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Google defers its billing policy in India till March

The six-month delay comes after start-ups raised a clamour against its current system

BISMAL MALIK @Bengaluru

TECH giant Google on Monday announced deferment of its billing policy in India to April, 2022 after evoking strong criticism from the startup ecosystem in the world's second largest internet market. Earlier, Google had said that it will mandate the apps to pay 30 per cent fees to the company for purchase of all in-app digital goods like online education, health and gaming services from September 2021. It is now being deferred by six months.

"Being mindful of local needs and concerns, we've taken the following immediate steps... We're extending the time for developers in India to integrate with the Play billing system, to ensure they have enough time to implement the UPI for subscription payment option that will be made available on Google Play — for all apps that are yet to launch, or that currently use an alternative payment system, we set a timeline of March 31, 2022," Purnima Kochikar, Director of Business Development, Games & Applications, Google Play said in a blog post. While the tech giant reiterated that its payments policy is not specific to India and is already being implemented by 97 per cent of the developers with apps on Google Play, nearly 150 start-ups in India led by Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma



have raised the matter with the Ministry of Electronics Information and Technology and forged an Atma Nirbhar digital foundation alliance to develop an indigenous app store.

Paytm announced the launch of a mini app store creating strong buzz in the industry of a homegrown challenge to Google Play Store. "All we can say is that Paytm is in the process of developing into a super app leveraging its wide user base of millions of users and Sharma's own influence on the start-up industry to challenge Google's monopoly on the app store. With wallet, payment, insurance, banking services already being offered by Paytm, the platform is onboarding third-party apps at supposedly no charges, which will be a win-win situation for the startups," a research analyst wishing anonymity told this publication.

However, it remains to be seen if any tech platform will be able to give competition to Google commanding 99 per cent of the android app market share in the country.

Credit profile of India Inc weakens in H1 FY21

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AMIDST the current economic turbulence, rating agencies have been underscoring the weakening of the credit profile of a large number of entities in the first half of the fiscal year. Joining the likes of Crisil and ICRA, Care Ratings on Monday said its modified credit ratio (MCR) is still at the lowest levels since Q4 2013-14.

The MCR in the first two

quarters of the current fiscal year stood at 0.94 with sectors such as telecom, hospitality, real estate, construction, auto, retail trade, textiles, hospitality, food and food products seeing the sharpest deterioration in credit quality. On the other hand, education, sugar, hospitals & healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and IT sectors saw improved credit quality.

"The majority of entities (73%) saw their credit ratings being reaffirmed in Q2 2020-21, even as the proportion of upgrades saw a decline (y-o-y basis). Entities with 'below investment grade' ratings saw a higher deterioration in their credit profile than the entities with 'investment grade' ratings," Care said in a note. The MCR is defined as the ratio of up-

grades to downgrades. In other words, an increase in the MCR implies an improving credit quality of the rated entities while a decline in the same signals a deterioration in credit quality of the rated entities.

The rating reaffirmations and upgrades during Q2 FY21 factored in the favourable financial position of the entities in terms of scale of operations, liquidity situation, capital structure, debt servicing

parameters along with industry specific factors.

Despite the unprecedented nature of the disruptions, however, the overall credit quality of the domestic entities has been better than that in 2012-13. "This can largely be attributed to the measures undertaken by RBI... to offer a six months moratorium on loan repayment and the emergency credit lines scheme of the government," the agency noted.

'Over 45% of a car price goes to govt as taxes'

It hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, auto sales in India is expected to witness a steep decline in FY21. Luxury car sales, which accounts for only one per cent of the total car sales, may take a bigger hit as its target customers are in a cautionary mode. On Monday, Balbir Singh Dhillon, Head of Audi India and Manohar Bhat, Head of sales and marketing, Kia Motors India spoke about impact of Covid-19 on the industry, high taxes, relief from the government, among other things, in a chat with author and senior journalist Kaveree Bamzai and Prabhu Chauha, Editorial Director at The New Indian Express as part of TNIE's Express Expressions, a series of live webcasts with people who matter.

"A large part of the price customers pay when buying a luxury car goes to import duty, registration tax and GST. We are just one per cent of the total car sales volume but we contribute almost 10 per cent of the total revenue," pointed out Dhillon. Currently, the import duty on compete built-up (CBU) cars in India is



Luxury car buying is also an asset buying. Many companies when they make profit, they buy car for depreciation benefits. Right now there is no profit, no depreciation

Balbir Singh Dhillon



The government should check out at reducing GST rates as demand is elastic. In India, a car is not considered as a public transport but a luxury product

Manohar Bhat

between 60-100 per cent. Then GST is between 40-50 per cent, depending on the size and engine capacity of the car, and registration taxes stand between 10-20 per cent. Let's say, if one is buying a car worth ₹1 crore, he might end up paying taxes in the range of ₹65-70 lakh. For the locally manufactured ones, one ends up paying 20 lakhs as taxes for a unit that is priced at ₹50 lakh. "If this is not rationalised, we will not grow. The problem is not just tax. It is tax on tax," said Dhillon. He added that high rate of taxes also impacts a company's capability



to export more from India.

"We have treaties with many countries. Export also has certain taxation. These are taxes which are higher in India as compared to many other countries. For example, export tax from Mexico is lower than export tax from India," the head of Audi India explained.

Tanishq unveils new festive collection

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

EYEING to encash on the upcoming festive season, Tanishq on Monday launched an exclusive collection for the festive season called 'Ekavtam'. The collection is inspired by the theme of 'Oneness' and is a true confluence of India's finest art forms, intricately knitted into one magnificent collection that brings alive the beauty of oneness.

As gold prices are soaring and customers are hesitant to spend, Tanishq is focusing on innovations and creating a light weight range of jewellery to serve the needs of the customers. "We are also experimenting, and we'll see how it goes. We have tried to look at some material innovations, which we hope to launch as a pilot activity," Ajoy Chawla, CEO, Jewellery Division, Titan Company Ltd. He said consumers prefer to spend within their budget when it comes to gold and Tanishq is aiming to offer a wide collection of jewellery to customers suitable for their range. Tanishq said that its new collection has been designed to attract customers during the festive season.

PNB will focus on retail, agri & MSME lending, says MD Rao

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

STATE-RUN Punjab National Bank has already lent ₹12,000 crore to MSMEs as an emergency lending and plans to provide more loans to this sector. According to S S Mallikarjuna Rao, MD and CEO of the bank, the bank is also expecting demand from logistics, pharmaceutical and also the healthcare industry which require funds to expand their businesses from banks.

The main focus will be lending

towards the MSME, agriculture and retail sectors. The bank is also reaching out to MSME customers through various modes of communication and has been offering the assistance related to the government schemes as well as its own schemes for early revival of the struggled units.

Besides, the bank is planning to reach out to all corporate customers through video conference regarding how they are going to tackle the post Covid situation.



Rao also called on the Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Chief Secretary K Shanmugam to discuss about the economy, the bank added.

"He also discussed business development by way of tie-up with the government and government agencies," the bank said in a release.

Rao, who is in the city on Monday, also inaugurated the "PNB Loan Point" at Chennai, a credit vertical to deal with agriculture, retail and MSME credit. "The banking system has enormous liquidity now and expects an opportune moment to lend to the industries. We expect the investment from industries to

increase during the second half of the current fiscal and the bank is geared up to face the situation for proper lending," he said.

Besides, the bank is planning to introduce an e-lending system for selective loans like personal loans where the borrowers needn't to come to the bank and put e-signature in documents to process the loan. At least 25 per cent of the bank's customers adopted technology for mode of transactions, Rao pointed out.

Hefty dividend payouts derail energy transition

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

LARGE dividend declarations by state run oil companies have left them with little cash to diversify and invest in low carbon alternatives, Moody's said on Monday.

The rating agency added that while there has been significant investment in renewables by private and other state-run firms, the state-run oil companies have not been able to invest in this area. "The Indian government has also been extracting large shareholder payouts from its

National oil companies (NOC) leaving little cash surplus for them to meaningfully invest in low carbon alternatives," the rating agency said.

State-run oil explorer ONGC paid out a 140 per cent dividend in 2018-19, while it has already announced an interim dividend of 100 per cent for 2019-20. Similarly, Indian Oil paid a total of 92.5 per cent as dividend for 2018-19 and an interim dividend of 42.5 per cent for 2019-2020.

The global trend is that oil companies are slowly moving

into renewables. Nearly \$9 billion will be invested by Norwegian state run firm Equinor. While French major Total plans to double its gross global renewable energy capacity to six gigawatts (GW) from just a year ago, Moody's said that though India's energy strategy aims to reduce its hydrocarbon imports by increasing use of renewables, "however, India's consumption of fossil fuels, under its stated policies, will continue to increase and so will its imports of oil and gas until

at least 2040."

India is the world's third-largest consumer of oil.

"Given that the country expects its consumption of oil and gas to continue to increase, the government is unlikely to authorize a meaningful change in the business model of its NOCs," it said, adding "If the prices of oil and gas decline, following an accelerated or disorderly carbon transition, to such an extent that makes capital structures of these companies unsustainable, we expect the NOCs to rely on support from the government."

EXPRESS READ

Britannia to issue payment of dividend

New Delhi: Bakery and dairy products major Britannia Industries on Monday said its board has approved issuing bonus debentures and payment of dividend to reward its shareholders in such difficult and unprecedented times due to coronavirus pandemic. The board of the company approved issue of a non-convertible, redeemable fully paid-up debenture of the face value of ₹29 by way of "bonus to the Members of the Company" for one paid-up equity share of face value of Re 1 each, by utilising its general reserve, it said.

HDFC sees biz reverting to pre-covid levels

New Delhi: Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC) on Monday said that the loan disbursements during the September quarter were at 95% of the level in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Individual loan approvals grew by 9% year-on-year (y-o-y) and loan applications received jumped by 12% during the same quarter. In a regulatory filing, the housing finance company also said that the month of September saw the highest recovery since the outbreak of the pandemic.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price
₹254.05

Target Price
₹310



KNR CONS

KNR has already monetized three of its HAM projects. We expect the balance sheet to strengthen further, with a net cash position of -INR2B/-INR4b by FY21E/FY22E. The company has the best balance sheet position among midcap road EPC companies. This should support premium valuations for KNR, in our view. We believe KNR is well-poised to bid for new projects as and when bidding commences in the Roads sector.

—Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of TNIE

H Shankar appointed Director (Technical), CPCL

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL) said H Shankar has assumed office as Director (Technical) from October 1, 2020. He is a mechanical engineer of 1991-batch from Osmania University, Hyderabad. Shankar joined Indian Oil Corporation at Haldia Refinery as Engineer Trainee in Feb 1992. He succeeds R Srikanthan who retired on September 30.



Business & Beyond

SAIL chairman AK Chaudhary is CII's PSE Council head

The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has nominated Anil Kumar Chaudhary, chairman, SAIL as the chairman of its PSE Council. The PSE Council plays a vital role in the overall functioning of CII, which works with government and the public sector enterprises on various policy issues and serves as a reference point for the industry. Formed in 2007, the council today consists of a total of 96 members.



SAIL fosters employee engagement

In line with this objective to embrace employee-oriented management measures, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) through a social NGO — AAS, has organised a series of online sessions for employees on various topics such as motivation, positivity, leadership, personal conduct, etc.



Haldia Refinery celebrates Gandhi Jayanti

Indian Oil Corporation's Haldia Refinery has celebrated Gandhi Jayanti at Gandhi Park adhering to the "New Normal" norms. The program included paying floral tributes to the bust of Mahatma Gandhi by the executive director & refinery head, Haldia Refinery, Partha Ghosh. On this auspicious occasion, Haldia Refinery extended its support by providing financial assistance for procurement of a hundred oxymeter under the aegis of CSR. The commitment was handed over to CMOH, Govt. of West Bengal by Ghosh.



Powergrid signed MoU with Power Min

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (Powergrid) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Power on September 29, 2020. The MoU has been signed by Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, Secretary (Power), and K Sreekanth, CMD Powergrid in the presence of senior officials from the ministry as well as Powergrid. The MoU includes targets related to various parameters such as financial, project execution, etc. to be achieved by Powergrid during FY21.



CLW produces locos for Tejas Express

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) has turned out the first batch of Tejas Express locos for 'push-pull' operations with aerodynamically designed WAP-5 (loco no. 35012 & 35013). The 'push-pull' technology will help the passenger electric locomotives to reduce air drag at higher speed for more energy efficiency and dynamically stable during high speed operations. Praveen Kumar Mishra, General Manager flagged off these Tejas Express locos.

IPL TOPPERS

ORANGE CAP
KL RAHUL
302 RUNS

PURPLE CAP
RABADA
12 WKTS

SIX-O-METER
277

FAIRPLAY
KKR

Updated till DC vs RCB match

For news, views and more log on to
newindianexpress.com/sports/ipl

**SPORTING
LIFE**

LIVE TODAY

CRICKET

MI vs RR @ 7.30 PM

Star Sports 1/Hotstar

TENNIS

French Open | Hotstar/Star Sports
Select 2 @ 2.30 pm

Tennis meets from Nov, says AITA

NEW DELHI: The domestic tennis tournaments are set to resume from November 16, the All India Tennis Association said on Monday. According to AITA, the tournaments will initially begin in the age categories of U-12, U-14 and U-16 only. The duration of the tournaments would remain restricted to three days, with a maximum draw of 32 allowed.

STEFANOS Tsitsipas on Monday overcame an eye problem to become the first Greek man to reach the Roland Garros quarterfinals with a 6-3, 7-6 (11/9), 6-2 win over Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria. The 22-year-old will

UAE to Oz, no India stopover

Cricket Australia asks BCCI for list of travellers, schedule awaits finalisation

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

AFTER much uncertainty surrounding India's tour of Australia, things are finally beginning to fall in place. Cricket Australia (CA) has asked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for a list of the touring party, which can include family members. Brisbane is marked as the first stop of a full-fledged tour starting in November-end. The series will commence with three T20Is followed by as many ODIs and four Tests. An official schedule is expected in the coming days and authorities in Australia are even likely to welcome crowds to the stadiums. Test specialists Cheteshwar

Pujara, Hanuma Vihari and the support staff led by head coach Ravi Shastri will depart for Dubai later this month, undergo quarantine and enter a bio-secure bubble. It is understood that one batch of players—who don't make the IPL play-offs—will leave for Australia with the support staff by November 4. The rest will leave after the final on November 10. However, sources in BCCI have not ruled out the possibility of everyone flying together, as it will make things logistically easier. If players wish to take their families to Australia, they too have to go via Dubai like others and stay in quarantine in a separate hotel before being allowed to mix with the rest of the team.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE	
T20Is:	Nov 27/28, 29, Dec 2
ODIs:	Dec 4, 6, 9
Warm-up:	Dec 11-13
First Test:	Dec 17-21
Second Test:	Dec 26-30
Third Test:	Jan 7-11
Fourth Test:	Jan 15-19

While Adelaide is spoken about as India's entry point to Australia, it is understood that CA is in negotiations with the Queensland government to allow them to land in Brisbane, where they will undergo two-week quarantine. It is learnt that since everyone is travel-

ling from a bio-secure bubble, they will be allowed to train once they test Covid-19 negative after landing. With regards to the venues and dates, as reported previously by this daily, Brisbane will host the limited-over legs, with the first T20I beginning on November 27 or November 28 followed by matches on November 29 and December 2. The ODIs have been scheduled for December 4, 6 and 9 following which India will play a warm-up fixture (two-day or three-day) among themselves. Indications are that India will be carrying a 28-member squad sans the support staff, which is likely to be reduced to 20 by the time Tests begins. Full story: newindianexpress.com

THE DAY FOOTBALL GOT HIGH

Liverpool conceded seven, Spurs scored six, Lewandowski scored four on his own and Napoli did not turn up for their match against Juventus. Here's a look at a madcap day from some of Europe's premier football leagues...

UNITED 1-6 TOTTENHAM

That United can be got at is an open secret. Their centre-backs are slow, their midfield can be breached and they so often play reactive football is all well known. But the way Spurs ran at them was like watching a heavy-weight boxer punch a fly-weight. This defeat could spell the beginning of the end of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's reign.

ASTON VILLA 7-2 LIVERPOOL

Liverpool became the first reigning Premier League champs to concede as many. Their high-line was repeatedly exposed by an energetic Aston Villa. It should be noted that Villa got lucky as they scored three from deflections. But that will be scant consolation on one of Jurgen Klopp's darkest days.

NO-SHOW NAPOLI

Napoli did not travel to Juventus after two of their players tested positive. But Juve players came to the stadium, handed in the starting XI before the match was abandoned 30 minutes after the scheduled start.

RESULTS (RD 4)

Men: Rublev (RUS x13) bt Fucsovics (HUN) 6-7 (4/7), 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3); Tsitsipas (GRE x5) bt Dimitrov (BUL x18) 6-3, 7-6 (11/9), 6-2. **Women:** Kvitova (CZE x7) bt Shuai (CHN) 6-2, 6-4; Siegemund (GER) bt Badosa (ESP) 7-5, 6-2.

the second set tiebreaker while frustrating 18th seed Dimitrov by saving the only three break points he faced. Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic racked up his 35th victory of 2020 and a place in quarterfinals for 14th time here with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 win over Karen Khachanov.

Tsitsipas overcomes eye problem to enter last 8

AFP @ Paris

STEFANOS Tsitsipas on Monday overcame an eye problem to become the first Greek man to reach the Roland Garros quarterfinals with a 6-3, 7-6 (11/9), 6-2 win over Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria. The 22-year-old will

MISSING

The person shown in the Photo, Sudhakaran age 70, S/o. Sreedharan Puthanvila Veedu, Meenad Village, Kollam district, 5.5 feet tall and wheatish coloured has been missing from his home at Chathannoor on 06/09/2020 1.30 PM. The investigation is ongoing as per Chathannoor Police Station Crime 1549/2020 U/s 57(1)(A) of Kerala Police Act. any information with regards to this person, please inform the matter to the following address/mobile numbers.

Address: The Station House Officer, Chathannoor, Police Station, Kollam.

PHONE NUMBERS:

Assi. Police Commissioner, Chathannoor : 9497990022
Station House Officer, Chathannoor : 9497947130
Chathannoor Police Station : 0474 2593250
1529/F2/2020/I&PRD Inspector SHO, Chathannoor

DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN
WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD**

O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyderabad, Telangana State-500004.

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of Work	Estimate Contract Value
No.03 /CGM(E)/STP Circle-I/OCEMS/DGM/2020-21. Dated.05.10.2020	Supply, Delivery, Installation & Commissioning of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) and other Associated works viz., Civil, Electrical, Mechanical and Instrumental works at (20) Nos of Sewerage Treatment Plants under HMWSSB including CMC of OCEMS for (5) years.	Rs.389.45 Lakhs

1. Tender Documents will be available online from Dt. 06.10.2020 from 5.00 P.M onwards and the last date for receipt of tenders is Dt. 20.10.2020.

2. Name & address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned - Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, HMWSSB, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500 004.

3. The Contractors/ firms are requested to upload the information in the ZIP format preferably.

4. Further details can be seen at <http://www.eprocurement.gov.in>

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyderabad, Telangana State-500004.

**CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR
RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION**

1, NAWAB YUSUF ROAD, CIVIL LINES, PRAYAGRAJ-211001

Corrigendum Details Corrigendum Publish Date: 01/10/2020 17:45
CORRIGENDUM NO. - 9

Tender Details

Tender No EL CORE-OHE-EPC-12 (Open Closing Date/Time: 22/10/2020 15:00 Tender)

Name of Work: EPC TENDER: Request for Proposal For Electrification of Railway Lines in Nadial (Excl.) - Modasa (Ind.), Jaisalmer (Excl.) - Wansjaliya (Excl.) and Rajkot (Excl.) - Somnath (Ind) Sections of Western Railway On Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode, [Bid/Package No. EPC-12].

Items Modified

Field Name	Existing Value	Modified Value
Earnest Money (INR)	14254300.00	13823500.00
Advised Value (INR)	2850849994.61	2764696130.69

No.: PR/534/20 (Kaka) Website: www.ireps.gov.in

Serving Customers with a Smile

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U05110KA1870SGC001919

No. KPCL/2020-21/PS/WORK_INDENT10469 Dated: 03.10.2020

ABSTRACT SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Part System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed companies/agencies through e-tendering portal for the work of Restoration of slurry pumps and Preventive maintenance of pumps and auxiliaries, of U#8 AHP along with Providing and Painting of Bottom Ash Hopper and pipelines at Bottom Ash area of U#8 AHP" of RTPS. Interested bidders may submit the bids through e-Tendering website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in Last date for receipt of queries if any up to 16.00 hours on 06.10.2020. Last date for submission of completed tender document up to 18.00 hours on 10.10.2020. Date of opening the Technical bid at 10.00 hours on 12.10.2020. Date of opening the Price bids of pre-qualified tenderers at 10.00 hours on 13.10.2020. Further details can be had from the office of the Superintending Engineer (MM-3), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584 170, Raichur (Dist.) Mobile: 9449596545 and Telephone No.08532-246125 Fax No:08532-246118.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕುಪ್ಪರೋಗ ಅಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ

ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನಾಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮಾಗಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-23

ಸಂ. ಕು.ಪ್ರಾ.ಹಾರ/63/2020-21 ದಿನಾಂಕ:03-10-2020

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ವಿಷಯ:- ಕುಪ್ಪರೋಗ ಅಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಾಗಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು -23 ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಳರೋಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ 2020-21 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಠ್ಯಾಹಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಅಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳು, ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ, ಬ್ರೆಡ್ ಸರಬರಾಜಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಕುಪ್ಪರೋಗ ಅಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಾಗಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿನ 2020-21ನೇ ಪಠ್ಯಾಹಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದ (ಅನುಬಂಧ) 3 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಲಗತ್ತಿಸುವುದು ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಅಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥ, ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ, ಬ್ರೆಡ್ ಮೀದಿಸುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಬೆಂಡರಾಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕೇಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03-10-2020 (2) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-10-2020 (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-10-2020 (4) ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20-10-2020.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ.

ಬೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಗಳನ್ನು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನವು ಅಕ್ಕಿಕ್ಕವಾಗಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜಾ ದಿನವೆಂದು ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನವನ್ನು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು/ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು/ ಕುಪ್ಪರೋಗ ಅಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಾಗಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/DDU/SSC/1288/2020-21

MI VS RR (ABUDHABI) HEAD-TO-HEAD MI 10, RR 10

(Excluding two Champions League T20 matches, which each team won once)

Acid test for Royals

Rajasthan Royals have to play out of their skins if they are to spring a surprise on the defending champions Mumbai Indians. Here are a few talking points...

ADVANTAGE MUMBAI

Since the heartbreaking loss they suffered in Super Over against Bangalore, the defending champions have registered comprehensive wins against Punjab (48 runs) and Hyderabad (34). On the contrary, Rajasthan have struggled at venues with bigger boundaries.

4 Since their return after two-year ban in 2018, Rajasthan Royals have beaten Mumbai Indians in all four matches.

BUTTLER, UNADKAT WORRY

English import Jos Buttler has failed to live up to team's expectations. He has managed only 47 runs from three outings so far. He needs to fire at the top if Rajasthan wish to arrest the slide. Similarly, Jaydev Unadkat has managed only one wicket in four matches with an economy of 9.91.

194 If he plays, Rohit Sharma will overtake Suresh Raina's to be placed second on list of players with most IPL ties after Dhoni (195).

Ex-factor: Stoinis delivers Royal hit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE



Marcus Stoinis | SPORTZPICS

AT the toss, Delhi Capitals' Shreyas Iyer stressed about the importance of someone chipping in with the bat when required. Against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Dubai on Monday, the need arose. Bangalore bowlers were quite impressive in the middle overs, scalping three wickets, including that of Iyer, for 39 runs in seven overs. Marcus Stoinis paid good heed to Iyer's words. The Australian took the attack to the opposition, unleashing a 26-ball 53 to steer his team to a healthy looking 196/4 from 20 overs. The right-hander walked into bat in the 12th over of the innings and he dealt in boundaries with utmost ease. If he hit Moeen Ali for a six and four in the 14th, he slammed Navdeep Saini for two fours and a six in the next. It looked like an innings

with intent written all over it against a team, which released him ahead of last year's auction. The experienced man, en route his half-century, hit six fours and two sixes. Rishabh Pant played a good hand too, scoring a 25-ball 37. However, one needs to give credit to opener Prithvi Shaw, who provided a flying start for his team with a 23-ball 42. He looked in ominous touch, hitting the Bangalore bowlers all around the park. In the end, the total proved sufficient for DC as RCB lost by 59 runs. **Brief scores:** DC 196/4 in 20 ovs (Stoinis 53 no, Shaw 42) vs RCB 137/9 in 20 ovs (Kohli 43, Rabada 4/24).

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On behalf of President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works from eligible contractors/ agencies having experience in works of similar nature and magnitude.

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**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT**

Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests
Bangalore Rural Division, Devanahalli, Office: 29787088 (080),
E-mail: dcfrural@gmail.com

No.: A8/Timber Sale/CR-05/2020-21 Date: 28.09.2020

Publication of Tender for e-auction of forest products

It is hereby notified for the general information of the public that, the following kinds and quantity of timber will besold through the public e-tender slae in the Doddaballaura Depot, Doddaballapura (III Session) and Hoskote Depot, Hoskote (IV Session) on 12.10.2020 and Nelamangala Depot, Nelamangala, (I Session) on 13.10.2020 of Bangalore rural Division by the Deputy conservator of Forests or by any other officer authorized by him for the purose subject to the following conditions.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERIAL TO BE SOLD

Sl. No.	Name of the Depot	Kind	Lot No	Approximate in cubic meters	Date of e-tender
1.	Doddaballapura Tenky Depot. Doddaballapura Range	Nilagiri Nata	9	55.582	12-10-2020 (III Session)
2.	Tattanuru, jadigenahalli Tenky Depot. Hoskote Range	Nilagiri Nata	67	296.363	12-10-2020 (IV Session)
3.	Sladevanahalli, Bhommanahalli Tenky Depot. Nelamangala Range	Nilagiri Nata	59	393.397	13-10-2020 (I Session)

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Bangalore Rural Division, Devanahalli

DIPR/DDO/B-Rural/SSC/201/2020-21

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR, SRIRAHKOTA-524124, NELLORE (Dt.), A.P.**

No: SHAR: CMG CIVIL: MAINT: E-PublicTender-02 / 20-21 **BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE** Date: 05.10.2020

On behalf of President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works from eligible contractors/ agencies having experience in works of similar nature and magnitude.

Title of the work	Repair of major under repair quarters (30 no.s) in PHC-4 & II housing colonies, SDSC SHAR.	Arresting roof leakage by providing Galvalume sheet roof over the terrace of electrical substation at Zero point, SDSC SHAR.	Providing black top to approach road for New PSOM-XLS/139 Magazine Facility at SPP, SDSC SHAR.	Term contract for execution of minor/ maintenance Civil & PH works for the year 2020-21 at SPROB area, SDSC SHAR.
Tender No	T/C-20-003	T/C-20-004	T/C-20-005	T/C-20-006
Est. Cost Put to tender	₹ 39.15 Lakhs	₹ 21.65 Lakhs	₹ 11.75 Lakhs	₹ 75.00 Lakhs
Period of completion	06 Months	08 Months	12 Months	12 Months
Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 78,300/-	₹ 43,300/-	₹ 23,500/-	₹ 1,50,000/-

Period during which tender documents can be requested : 06.10.2020, 10:00 hrs to 21.10.2020, 14:30 hrs

Last date & time for uploading of tenders: 23.10.2020 & 14:30 hrs

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed tender notice available in our office or our website www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO further details and purchase of tender documents. Contact Phone 08623 - 226083/8085

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

KARNATAKA STATE HANDICRAFTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No. 39, 2nd Floor, United Mansion, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Telephone: 25582656/71204445/71204446. e-Mail: gmmkshdcl@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.cauveryhandicrafts.net>

No. KSHDCI/MKTG/E-T/850/2020-21 Dated: 06.10.2020

BRIEF SHORT-TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited (KSHDCL) invites short-term e-tenders from eligible tenderers for manufacture and supply of 22ct Gold Medals on Sale on Approval (SOA) Basis. The tender notification details may be obtained through e-procurement mode by logging on to website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in The date of commencement of access to tender documents is 06.10.2020 and last date and time for submission of Bids is 13.10.2020 up to 15:00 hours. KSHDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- General Manager (Marketing)

**Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat Chikkaballapur**

Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Department, Chikkaballapur

Short Term E-Procurement Notification No:09/2020-21 Date: 28.09.2020

(Tender Invited under Standard Tender Document K.W-1&11 Rules)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka itemwar tenders invited under (Single Cover System) for suitable Class Works registered in Public Works Department under different Account Head from eligible bidders enrolled under Panchayath Raj Engineering Department, Government of Karnataka. For Details and for submitting tender visit E-procurement portal <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> as follows

1	Last date for submitting application and filling Schedule-B on the E-Procurement website	27.10.2020 at 16.30 Hours
2	Technical Bid Opening Date	29.10.2020 after 11.30
3	Application Fees (Non-Refundable)	As per e-procurement rules

Sd/- Executive Engineers, P.R.E Dept., Chikkaballapura

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/SSC/177/2020-21

Hepatitis C virus discovery wins Physiology's Nobel

UK-US trio recognised for their contribution in the field of medicine for their work in the fight against the disease that affects the liver



A screen displaying the winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Medicine in Stockholm on Monday | AFP

SCIENCE HEROES

STOCKHOLM: Americans Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice and British-born scientist Michael Houghton jointly won the Nobel Prize for medicine on Monday for their discovery of the hepatitis C virus, a major source of liver disease that affects millions worldwide.

Announcing the prize, the Nobel Committee noted that the trio's work identified a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the previously discovered hepatitis A and B viruses. Their work, dating back to the 1970s and 1980s, has helped saved millions of lives, it said.

The medicine prize carried particular significance this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has highlighted the importance that medical research has for societies and economies around the world — and the damage that a single virus can wreak on the planet.

"Thanks to their discovery, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have essentially elimi-

nated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly improving global health," the committee said.

"Their discovery also allowed the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at hepatitis C," it added.

"For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising hopes of eradicating hepatitis C virus from the world population."

WHO estimates there are over 71 million cases of hep-

atitis C worldwide and 4,00,000 deaths from it each year. The disease is chronic and a major cause of liver cancer and cirrhosis requiring liver transplants.

Alter demonstrated that an unknown virus was a common cause of chronic hepatitis after receiving blood transfusions among chimpanzees

Rice provided the final proof that Hepatitis C virus alone could cause the unexplained cases of transfusion-mediated hepatitis

Houghton used an untested strategy to isolate the genome of the new virus that was named Hepatitis C

But the in-person ceremony has been cancelled this year due to the pandemic and replaced with a televised ceremony showing the laureates receiving their awards in their home countries.

Their award comes as the hunt for a coronavirus vaccine has put the global spotlight on their field. Both Rice and Houghton, a University of Alberta professor, are currently involved in efforts to find a vaccine for Covid-19. No prizes were expected to be awarded this year directly linked to the coronavirus, as Nobel prize-winning research usually takes many years to be verified.

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An analysis of Stockholm's wastewater showed an uptick in coronavirus cases in September to a level comparable to May, researchers said on Monday, enabling them to conclude the rise was not due to increased testing. The sewage water testing could help provide important insights into the spread and prevalence of the disease without the need for expensive widespread individual tests.

newindianexpress.com



Latest ocean-monitoring satellite

This November, NASA and ESA are set to launch a new Earth-observing satellite called Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich. Its primary objective is to monitor sea levels and provide atmospheric data to support weather forecasting and climate models. We take a look

2.5 METRES HEIGHT

EXPANDING GLOBAL TEMP DATA RECORD

Climate change doesn't just affect Earth's oceans and surface, it impacts all levels of the atmosphere from the troposphere to the stratosphere

AIM

The satellite has been built to carry out precise measurements of sea level changes

The mission will be used to monitor the height of the sea surface to understand long-term change

The mission will also collect precise data of atmospheric temperature and humidity that will help improve current climate models

Source: NASA/ESA

THE SATELLITE HAS BEEN NAMED AFTER MICHAEL H FREILICH

Freilich served as director of NASA's Earth Sciences Division for more than 12 years, before retiring in February 2019

UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE

90%

of heat trapped by rising greenhouse gases is absorbed by the sea, which causes seawater to expand

This expansion accounts for about one-third of modern-day sea level rise. Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich will provide long climate records for researchers to understand how climate change is reshaping Earth's coastlines

LAUNCHING DATE: NOV 10, 2020

ROCKET SPACE: FALCON 9

SITE: VANDENBERG, CALIFORNIA, US

PROVIDE NEW PERSPECTIVES

Jason series of satellites have been able to track the Gulf Stream, El Nino and La Nina

They can track large ocean features that stretch over thousands of kilometres

However, measuring smaller sea level variations near coastlines, has been beyond their capabilities

Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich can collect measurements at higher resolution that enable researchers to see these smaller, more complicated ocean features, especially near the coastlines

US-EUROPE PARTNERSHIP

Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich is the first NASA-ESA joint effort in an Earth science satellite mission

This is the first international involvement in Copernicus, the European Union's Earth Observation Programme. The collaborations enable access to a larger pool of resources and scientific expertise than would be available otherwise

FACT OF THE MATTER

Samsung rolls out 'Premiere'



HOME CINEMA

Samsung Electronics on Monday launched its new home cinema projector amid the pandemic-driven stay-at-home trend in South Korea. Called The Premiere, Samsung's latest 4K ultra-short-throw laser projector comes in two models, with the high-end LSP9T priced at 7.49 million won (\$6,430) and the standard LSP7T selling at 4.49 million won, reports Yonhap news agency. The home theater projector was first unveiled on September 2 at Samsung's virtual press conference event 'Life Unstoppable'. The flagship LSP9T delivers up to a 130-inch screen with 4K picture quality using triple laser technology and boasts a maximum brightness of 2,800 ANSI lumens, according to the company.

3 data centres in Greece



MICROSOFT DEAL

Greece and Microsoft on Monday announced an investment deal worth up to \$1.2 billion to build cloud storage infrastructure in the country. The announcement comes as Greece's pro-business government plans to gradually shift the country's notoriously bureaucratic civil service online. "We are bringing data centres to Greece. We're going to create a new region that will include Greece as well as (neighbouring countries)," Microsoft president Brad Smith told the project launch in Athens. The project foresees three data centres in the greater Athens area. No timeframe was given Monday. The Microsoft agreement also envisages training programmes for 1,00,000 Greeks.

Covid restrictions back in some parts of New York City

VIRUS RESURGENCE

NEW YORK: New York City's mayor said Sunday that he has asked the state for permission to close schools and reinstate restrictions on nonessential

businesses in several neighbourhoods because of a resurgence of the coronavirus.

The action, if approved, would mark a disheartening retreat for a city that enjoyed a summer with less spread of

the virus than most other parts of the country, and had only recently celebrated the return of students citywide to in-person learning in classrooms.

Shutdowns would happen starting Wednesday in nine

ZIP codes in the city, Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

About 100 public schools and 200 private schools would have to close. Indoor dining, which just resumed a few days ago, would be suspended. Outdoor

restaurant dining would shut down in the affected neighbourhoods as well, and gyms would close. Houses of worship would be allowed to remain open with existing restrictions in place, de Blasio said.



KISS ON THE BEAK

A trainer kisses his parrot during a show at the Dubai Safari Park on Sunday in the UAE. The park reopened its doors after a two-year expansion, as the emirate seeks to boost its hard-hit tourism sector amid the pandemic | AFP

Why are Americans blaming seals for low fish-count?

CONSERVATION SUCCESS

PORTLAND: Nick Muto has fished up and down the New England coast and there is nothing that gets his blood boiling more than the sight of a seal. Muto, whose two boats fish for groundfish such as skate and monkfish as well as lobster, is among a growing group of anglers, beach goers and local officials who are quick to blame everything from disease to depleted fisheries to increased shark sightings on the exploding seal population.

"Areas that we used to traditionally fish that were as close to guarantees as you could get have been strip mined of fish, and the fish have been driven out of there by



A grey seal lounges on a small island in Casco Bay, off Portland, Maine | AP

seals," Muto said. "They have eaten fish out of our nets. They have been caught in our nets. They are everywhere."

The debate over seals was reignited after the death in July of a swimmer killed by a great white

off Harpswell, Maine. Seals are often shark prey, and experts believe Julie Dimperio Holowach may have been mistaken for a seal.

No one questions that seal and shark numbers are on the rise, mostly due to federal protections. It's estimated there are as many as 50,000 grey seals in New England waters plus a lesser number of harbor seals. The animals were almost eliminated through hunting and bounties decades ago.

But experts maintain there is not enough science to determine whether the current population is too big and little basis for culling the marine mammals. Even suggesting seals are destroying fisheries or are solely to blame for shark attacks is not supported

by hard evidence. Experts say warming waters and other factors also could be playing a role. The Gulf of Maine, which stretches from Cape Cod to Nova Scotia, has been heating up faster than 99 per cent of the world's oceans.

"We get into this question of how many grey seals there are. The next question is how many seals should there be, which is kind of where people are going to go next with that, which is a very challenging thing," said David Johnston, a marine ecologist who has done grey seal population estimates using Google Earth and tagged seals to demonstrate how their feeding behaviour changes due to sharks in the Atlantic.

SAGAS OF SUCCESS

e-expressions

FEAR NONE. FAVOUR NONE

How to Fix India's Healthcare System

Dr Ashok Seth
Chairman, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Prabhu Chawla
Editorial Director,
The New Indian Express

Kaveree Bamzai
Author and
Journalist

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 7 PM

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WATCH

THINK

ACT



**Dhruba Sarja to have
a quiet birthday**

PG 4

DAY'S DIARY

Planet discovered

51 Pegasi b is a gas giant exoplanet that orbits a G-type star. Its discovery was announced on this day in 1995 by Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz

DISCOVERY

The planet has physical properties (luminosity and temperature, for example) similar to those of the Sun. This discovery led to thousands of extrasolar planet being found



NOBEL PRIZE

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced that the Nobel Prize in Physics would go to three people; one half of it was shared by Mayor and Queloz of the University of Geneva



PREVIOUS DISCOVERIES

A previous discovery in 1992 found planets orbiting a pulsar star but, many were skeptical that planets could exist around these volatile stars

HOOKED TO HOOPING

In line with the latest trend of hula hooping in a saree, celebrities have been jumping into the bandwagon

• **Monika Monalisa**

Getting the right moves for Savage on Tik Tok, just the right amount of froth for Dalgona coffee, and getting the makeup brush passed onto them in the 'Pass the brush' challenge... staying indoors with not much access to outside world has made people push their creative limits to come up with new trends. The latest is #sareeflow where women are hula hooping in the six-yard garment.

Started by Delhi-based hula hooper Eshna Kutty, who has been posting videos on Instagram, what caught the attention of social media users was a video of hula hooping to the *Genda phool* song from movie *Delhi 6*. "I have no idea how the video went viral. Now, with so many followers, it feels like a sense of responsibility to put up good content," says 23-year-old Kutty. This spunky self-taught hula hooper had around 30,000 followers on Instagram when she posted the video but will soon be touching 1.3 lakh followers post her social media fame. Now, many celebrities which includes Bollywood director, and star of the movie, Rakesh Omprakash Mehra and Abhishek Bachchan, respectively, also shared the video in their Instagram stories. "Of course it's exciting when celebrities start following you. But more than being star struck, it feels like validation when a star like



Eshna Kutty



Samyuktha Hegde

like Hrithik Roshan, who is great dancer himself, positively comments on your work," says Kutty, adding that Bengaluru holds a special place for her because her 80 per cent of her students are from the city.

Samyuktha Hegde, who got hooked to hooping during the lockdown, joined the saree-flow bandwagon, although she admits it's not the most comfortable thing to do. "But it's always fun to try something new. I came across Eshna during the lockdown when she started giving online classes, and I wanted to enroll for one. So, she is like both a friend and mentor. She started the saree flow which became viral like a wild fire," says Hegde, who was recently in the news when she was pulled-up by a passerby at a part for being "inappropriately dressed." She was practising hula hooping at a park. "It's difficult to completely move on from what happened. It will take time but I will," says Hegde, adding that Bengaluru has got one of the highest number of hoopers.

City-based hooper, Apoorva Amaresh recreated the sareeflow to the song *Bole Chudiyen* from *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham*. "I had a traditional wooden hoop. But I started hooping with a plastic hoop after seeing Eshna's videos," says Amaresh, whose mother found Kutty's video on Facebook and asked her to recreate it. "It might look easy but I almost stumbled upon my saree while trying this out," says Amaresh, adding her blooper video outnumbered the views in comparison to the actual video she shot.



I had a traditional wooden hoop. But I started hooping with a plastic hoop after seeing Eshna's videos

— Apoorva Amaresh, hooper

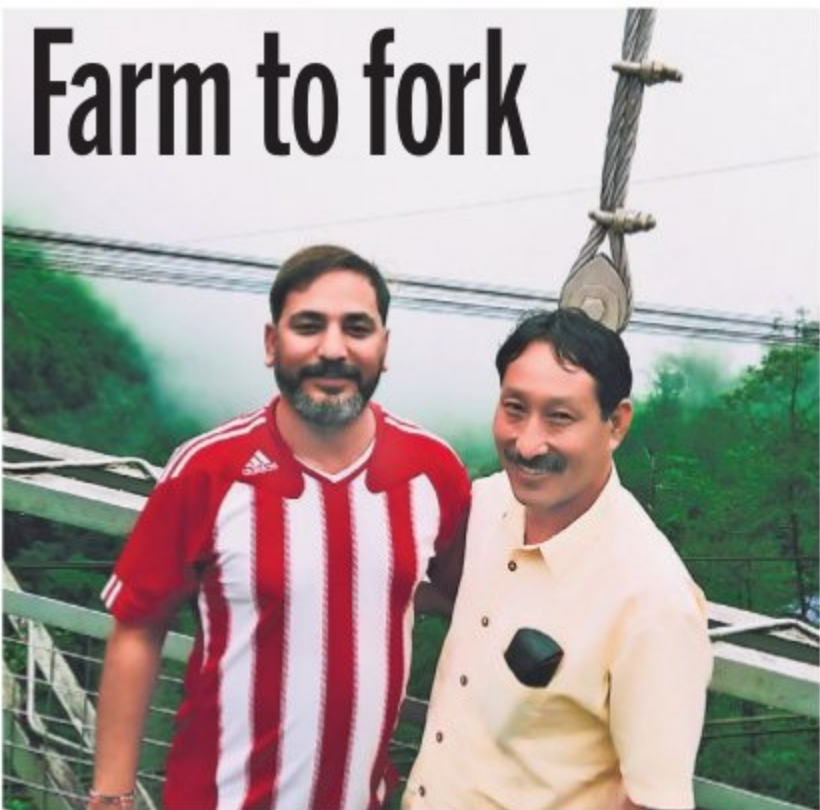


Products from Village Organica

Express Features

Whether it's green cardamom from Kerala, turmeric powder from Uttarakhand, or ashwagandha from Himachal Pradesh, entrepreneur Kanchan Kumar is working at making them available at the click of a button. This city-based techie-turned-social entrepreneur, has started a new project called Village Organica, a portal where he tries to cut down between farmers and buyers.

Started by accident, the seed of the idea for the set-up came when Kumar travelled to Sikkim in 2019, to recuperate from health issues. He also worked with the farmers and did some hands-on work alongside. "Living in the hills, I understood why people in such remote villages don't have any health issues and are content. They eat food which is natural and pesticide-free," says Kumar, who left his IT job in 2019 to pursue this full time. "Vegeta-



Founder of Village Organica Kanchan Kumar (left) with Dilip Kumar Rai, one of the farmers from Sikkim, who works with him.

bles and grains available in cities are filled with large amounts of pesticides. We want to make clean food available to every person," he says. In addition, he also wanted to cut down on the exploitation farmers face from mid-

dlemen. "Farmers are primarily driven by enhanced productivity and profitability in the short term, and they maximise productivity by extensive usage of pesticides and chemicals," says Kumar, adding, "For example, Sikkim is known for its black cardamom. They sell it for around ₹500 per kilo but when we get it, it's five times the price. No money goes to the farmer." Kumar is currently working with over 1,000 farmers from across the country. Through his venture, he is also trying to give away machine crushing techniques for spices and churn oil, an attempt to create more job opportunities for farmers.

Although the project officially started in May 2020, to test the waters, this new entrepreneur was taking orders on WhatsApp. But noticing the growing demand, he launched a website to formalise the business. "We have around 400-500 through the week, including weekends," adds Kumar.

Farm to fork

Local stories, global connection

• **Simran Ahuja**

There's a lot Anita Mithra is excited about these days. The 56-year-old city-based theatre practitioner, along with eight other actors from Theatre for Change, will be representing the country in the Kenyan International Theatre Festival. Festival director Kevin Kimani Kahuro, who invited the city-based theatre group last year as well, says, "They have an amazing way of telling their stories. And even though they share the stories of individuals, they share their culture along with it as well. And that's what this festival is about - besides being a platform for Ken-

yan theatre artistes to showcase their work, it's also a place where international acts and cultures can come together."

For the fifth edition, the virtual festival will be held over a period of five days, beginning on Nov. 10. It will see representation from five continents, with participation from countries like the USA, Colombia, India, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Ghana, Egypt and Uganda. Like last year, this year too, Theatre for Change will perform a play that has been inspired by the African American playwright Ntozake



Shange's choreopoems. "But we have adapted it to an Indian context and the performance consists of a set of multilingual monologues narrated by women across age," explains Sujatha Balakrishnan, founder, Theatre for Change. These monologues deal with various issues like body shaming, child sexual abuse and challenges faced in relationships. "We were inspired by Shange because these are shared experiences faced by women across the world," adds Balakrishnan, who is also considering collaborating with some theatre students of Ken-

atta University in Nairobi for the performance.

Mithra, whose monologue is on reinvention and the curveballs life throws at one, is hoping her piece will touch some minds and hearts. "My piece is a narration on a singular event in my life that was challenging and yet life affirming. I am hoping it provides resonance with women my age and food for thought for the younger ones," she says. Besides Mithra, other actors who are participating from the group include: Parvati Ramchandran, Mimansa Ojha, Vandana



Dugar, Vasanti Sundaram, Pooja Pandey Tripathi, Urvasi Goverdhan and Shatarupa Bhattacharyya.

Besides the pre-recorded performance, there will also be a live Q&A session. This, Balakrishnan hopes, will spark a conversation around women's issues that are both culturally specific as well as shared by women in India, Kenya and other African countries. Though performed primarily in English, they will have

some segments in regional Indian languages, which will also be conveyed through subtitles to the international audience. Adds Balakrishnan, "These are compelling personal stories shared with conviction, pride and honesty. They reinforce the importance of every story having a soul that needs to be told, heard and counted. Stories told from a specific perspective are dangerous as they become the dominant narrative."

For details about the festival, visit kifest.co.ke



We hope that our play that is set in a culturally specific context of India can spark a dialogue with women across cultures

— Sujatha Balakrishnan, founder, Theatre for Change



We hope these stories will help the readers shape their mindset to adopt sustainability from a young age.

— Garvita Gulhati, author

Of stories and trickles of change

Express Features

Around a year and a half ago, Garvita Gulhati realised how impactful her experiences with empathy were as a child. Birthdays at orphanages, instead of the typical celebratory parties and strict rules for finishing every bite of food on her plate, are just a few examples of what the 21-year-old refers to as life-changing views. An urge to bring about a similar mindset of empathy among children today gave way to a book that would do just that. Now, her organisation called Why Waste? (which she founded at the age of 15), is launching a storybook, titled *The Sustainability Stories*, brings out stories aimed at young adults, written by young adults themselves. Most of the 13 stories in the book, written by four different authors, revolve around the theme of water conservation – topic close to Gulhati's heart, and at the core of her organisation as well. "We didn't want to burden the readers with too much information. We hope these stories will help shape their mindset to adopt sustainability from a young age. Instilling conscious citizenship at a young age can be a powerful thing," says the B.Tech student of PES University.

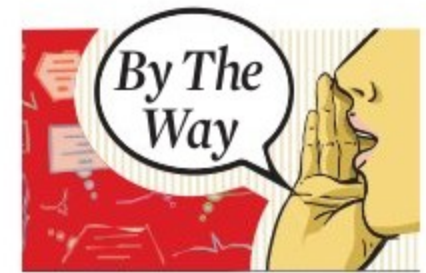
Though released on August 15, the book will see its official launch on October 10. The organisation is collaborating with Dialogues to host an online event for

this, where stories from the book will be read out and performed by members of Piece Of Paper Productions and members of the improv comedy trio – The BisiBeleBois.

The book's editor, Shruti Parthasarathy, says, "The stories adopt a fable-like format, where themes of water conservation and mindful use of resources is told through animal characters." Explaining the idea behind having young adults pen these stories, she continues, "Why Waste is a youth-led organisation and there's a strong belief that the youth can bring about a change." The book, which has spent a two years in the making, is available on Amazon for ₹250 and features stories penned by four authors, including those residing in India and USA.

Over the last summer, the organisation has also expanded to other countries like Oman, Dubai, USA, Mexico, South Africa and UK, by collaborating with volunteers or organisations there for different initiatives.

Gulhati has previously spoken to CE about the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) coming in support of her #GlassHalfFull campaign, where restaurant managers are requested to fill only half a glass of water unless otherwise requested by the customer. "Now through these international collaborations, we're looking to see if similar efforts can be undertaken elsewhere as well," she says.



Sketching it right

In the time of hashtags, caricature artist Prasad Bhat, has started a #MadhuriDixitCaricature Challenge, asking people to send in their caricatures of the actor. The message soon reached tinsel town, where the Dhak Dhak girl shared a video compilation of all the art works. She said, "Amazed to see these caricatures & artworks. I thoroughly enjoyed looking at such interesting renditions from 500+ artists."

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE



CRAFT WORKSHOP

Individuals over 10 years can take part in an online workshop for paper craft and spoken English. There will be separate batches for kids and adults. Contact 72990 94413 for details.
When: Oct10 - Dec10



SNACKING WHILE BINGING

For IPL lovers to enjoy matches while snacking on delicacies, Brigade Hospitality clubs - Augusta, Galaxy, Regent Club, The Woodrose and Signature Club Resort - have curated dishes inspired by the T20 extravaganza. To place orders, one can call the clubs on their respective numbers.
When: During IPL season



PAINT A CALENDAR

Velladi Ramanathan, a textile designer and visual arts resource person is conducting two sets of online classes for children - Paint a calendar 2021 and Paint landscapes. The sessions will be conducted online on Zoom. For registration, contact Ramanathan on 9840779026.
When: Ongoing



BOOK AWARDS

As part of the fourth edition of Neev Literature Festival, several shortlisted authors will be given the Neev Book Award. A series of events will be followed by the announcement of the winners of 4 categories - Picture Books, Emerging Readers, Junior Readers, Young Adult.
When: 10.00 am on Oct10

BAKERY COURSE One-month certification programme for bakery and cooking by Academy of Pastry & Culinary Arts. WHEN & WHERE: 9 am -5 pm

SPACE WATCH

SOUNDS OF SPACE

Telescopes give us a chance to see what the Galactic Center looks like in different types of light. By translating the inherently digital data (in the form of ones and zeroes) captured by telescopes in space into images, astronomers create visual representations that would otherwise be invisible to us. But what about experiencing these data with other senses like hearing? Sonification translates data into sound, and a new project brings the center of the Milky Way to listeners for the first time. Users can listen to data from, roughly 400 light-years across, either as "solos" from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, Hubble Space Telescope, and Spitzer Space Telescope or together as an ensemble in which each telescope plays a different instrument. Each image reveals different phenomena happening in this region about 26,000 light-years from Earth. The Hubble image outlines energetic regions where stars are being born, while Spitzer's infrared image shows glowing clouds of dust containing complex structures. This project has also produced sonified versions of the remains of a supernova called Cassiopeia A, or Cas A, and the "Pillars of Creation" located in Messier 16.



Source: Nasa.gov

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.









MAGGI BHEL

INGREDIENTS

- Maggi
- Peanuts
- Onions and Tomatoes
- Boiled potatoes
- Chilli sauce
- Tomato sauce
- Chilli
- Lemon and Sev

METHOD

- Roast the peanuts in some oil.
- Crush the uncooked Maggi and roast that as well.
- In a bowl, combine the Maggi masala with the sauces and vegetables.
- Add the roasted Maggi and peanuts, and mix well.
- Top with sev and lemon juice.

— Ekta A, Bengaluru

SOUND BOARD

WRITER AND GEEK SHOW

Writer and Geek Show is a science and tech podcast. Hosts Shankar and Vishnu love geeking about tech, history, science, music and any other topic they can think of.
● On Apple Podcast

IN THE FIELD

'In The Field' is a show that attempts to capture India's development story, as it happens, through a feature-style podcast that combines interviews, commentary, and debate.
● On Stitcher

THE MUSAFIR STORIES INDIA TRAVEL PODCAST

The Musafir Stories is an audio podcast that documents Indian travel tales. Each episode, the hosts share the journey of travelers in their own words and relive their experience with listeners.
● On Spotify

ECHOES OF INDIA: A HISTORY PODCAST

From the Greek art of Afghanistan to the to the thriving ports of Tamil Nadu, host Anirudh Kaniseti takes you on a journey through historical wonder.
● On Apple Podcast

HAPPIER WITH GRETCHEN RUBIN

Author Gretchen Rubin brings her practical, manageable advice about happiness and good habits to this lively, thought-provoking podcast.
● On Google Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

MUMBAI EXPRESS

Talked by his friend into kidnapping a wealthy family's young son, a stuntman soon finds himself in over his head. They kidnap the wrong boy. The child's parents, meanwhile, are going through tough times.
● Cast: Kamal Haasan, Manisha Koirala, Ramesh Aravind, Vijay Raaz

VASANTHA MALIGAI

A woman must overcome a wealthy alcoholic's wicked family as she tries to help him turn his life around.
● Cast: Sivaji Ganesan, Pandari Bai, Srikanth

MAHANADI

Krishnaswamy, an honest man, is cornered into a hit fund business and imprisoned. While he faces unpeppable hardships in prison, his family disintegrates.
● Cast: Kamal Haasan, Sukanya, Poonam Vishwanathan, Lakshmi

SENTHOORAPAANDI

Vijay falls in love with Meena but Meena's brother opposes their marriage due to rivalry between both the families. Senthooorapandi returns from jail and tries to help his brother to win his love.
● Cast: Vijay, Yuvarani, Vijaykanth

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 CAN HOME COOKING CHANGE THE WORLD? BY GASTON ACURIO

When Gaston Acurio started his now world-famous restaurant Astrid & Gaston in the 1990s, no one suspected that he would elevate the Peruvian home-cooking he grew up with to haute cuisine. Nearly thirty years and a storied career later, the chef wants the rest of us to embrace our culinary roots and transform the world with the meals we prepare each day.

2 EARLY BIRDS VS NIGHT OWLS

Do you wake up early every day or do you stay up late every night? Waking up early would mean you are a morning person, staying up late into the night would make you a night owl. What effect might this trait have on your personality, intelligence, and success rate?

3 SHOULD YOU TRUST UNANIMOUS DECISIONS? BY DEREK ABBOTT

Imagine a police line-up where ten witnesses are asked to identify a bank robber they glimpsed fleeing the scene. If all ten pick the same person, you might think the case is rock solid. But sometimes, the closer you start to get to total agreement, the less reliable the result becomes. Derek Abbott explains the paradox of unanimity.

4 CAN YOU SOLVE THE ROGUE AI RIDDLE? BY DAN FINKEL

A hostile Artificial Intelligence called NIM has taken over the world's computers. You're the only person skilled enough to shut it down, and you'll only have one chance. Dan Finkel shows how.

5 SECRETS OF THE MIND AND FREE WILL - REVEALED BY MAGIC TRICKS BY ALICE PAILHES

Are you in control of your choices? Magic tricks might reveal otherwise, says scientist and illusionist Alice Pailhes. Watch closely as she performs magic tricks that unveil how your brain works, how you can be subtly influenced and what that means for free will and your day-to-day life. Did she guess your card right?

FIT BIT

CHAKRA BANDHASANA (BOUND WHEEL POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'chakra' means 'wheel', 'bandha' means 'bound', and 'asana' means 'pose'. It is a strong back-bending asana popular in many forms of yoga. It is a heart-opening posture and is thought to work on the heart chakra. Hence, it is also referred to simply as bound wheel pose. While it releases physical tightness in the spine and body, it also releases emotional disturbances as it opens the heart. Some describe this effect as unblocking the energy that is stuck in the heart chakra. Others see the posture as having more of a balancing effect on the energy of the heart chakra.

STEPS

- Lie flat on your back. Keep your feet together and hands by the side, head on the floor.
- Now, bend your knees and bring your heels closer to your sitting bones. Place your heels, some distance apart.
- Bend your elbows and press your palms on the floor. Make sure your palms are comfortably placed next to your head and your fingers are pointing toward your shoulders. The distance between your palms should be the same as the distance between your feet.
- Now press your feet and palms on the floor. Exhale and gradually lift your hips off the floor. Let your arms and legs support your body weight equally.
- Push with your arms and legs to bring the crown of your head on the floor.
- Walk your palms towards your heels and grab your ankles.
- Press your feet firmly against the floor and lift your head.
- Now lengthen your spine and try to turn your head to face the ground.
- Stay in this pose for 15 seconds or as long as you can. Keep breathing to avoid muscle cramps.
- To come out of this pose, slowly release your ankles and place your palms next to your head.
- Rest in Savasana.

BENEFITS

- Relieves stress, anxiety, depression and fatigue.
- Energises the body.
- Stimulates the thyroid and pituitary glands.
- Slows down ageing.
- Stretches the chest and lungs.
- Increases flexibility.
- Calms the nervous system.
- Creates hormonal balance.
- Strengthens arms, wrists, legs, hips, abdomen, spine and shoulders.
- Improves digestion.
- Recommended for people with infertility, asthma, back pain and osteoporosis.

LIMITATIONS

- Those suffering from severe back, neck or head injuries, carpal tunnel syndrome, heart problems, high or low blood pressure, or diarrhoea, should avoid this.

— By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai



REGIONAL

NOOR (Hindi)

Noor is a journalist who works on feature stories but wishes to do serious reporting. While she struggles with the demands of her career and her love life, she unearths an investigative news story.
● Cast: Sonakshi Sinha, Kanan Gill, Shibani Dandekar, Purab Kohli
● Watch on: Amazon Prime

FRENCH BIRIYANI (Kannada)

Simon, representative of a drug company from France and Asgar, local auto driver from Shivajinagar, share a two-day long journey in Bengaluru. That twisted journey with comedy of errors changes the way they look at life.
● Cast: Danish Sait, Sai Yusuf, Sindhu Srinivasamurthy
● Watch on: Amazon Prime

NEE ENGE EN ANBE (Tamil)

Anaamika, a Tamil Hindu woman, desperately wanders through the crowded lanes of Hyderabad in search of her missing husband. Sarathi, a self-assured and supportive cop, assists Anaamika.
● Cast: Nayanthara, Harsvardhan Rane, Vaibhav Reddy, Pasupathy
● Watch on: Netflix

SERIOUS MEN (Hindi)

Tormented with his 'under-privileged' societal status, a father capitalises on his son's newfound fame as a boy-genius. Little does he realise that the secret he harbours will destroy the very thing he loves the most.
● Cast: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Shweta Basu Prasad, Nassar, Sanjay Narvekar
● Watch on: Netflix

MOHINI (Telugu)

Vaishnavi and Sandeep, a couple, are engaged to be married soon. However, things spiral out of control when she gets possessed by her dead look-alike who thirsts for revenge against Sandeep.
● Cast: Trisha Krishnan, Jacky Bhagnani, Yogi Babu, Madhumitha
● Watch on: Zee 5

ENGLISH

WONDER

Born with facial differences that, up until now, have prevented him from going to a mainstream school, Auggie Pullman becomes the most unlikely of heroes when he enters the local fifth grade. As his family, his new classmates, and the larger community all struggle to discover their compassion and acceptance, Auggie's extraordinary journey will unite them and prove you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.
● Cast: Julia Roberts, Jacob Tremblay, Owen Wilson, Noah Jupe
● Watch on: Netflix

THE SPECTACULAR NOW

Sutter, a popular party animal unexpectedly meets the introverted Aimee after waking up on a stranger's lawn. As Sutter deals with the problems in his life and Aimee plans for her future beyond school, an unexpected romance blossoms between them.
● Cast: Shailene Woodley, Miles Teller, Brie Larson, Kyle Chandler, Mary Elizabeth Winstead
● Watch on: Amazon Prime

UNDERWATER

Disaster strikes more than six miles below the ocean surface when water crashes through the walls of a drilling station. Led by their captain, the survivors realise that their only hope is to walk across the sea floor to reach the main part of the facility. But they soon find themselves in a fight for their lives when they come under attack from mysterious and deadly creatures that no one has ever seen.
● Cast: Kristen Stewart, TJ Miller, Vincent Cassel, Jessica Henwick
● Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

THE EMOJI MOVIE

Gene, a multi-expression emoji, gets sentenced to be deleted after he messes up a message his user Alex sends to his crush. Gene escapes the agents sent to destroy him and accepts his uniqueness.
● Cast: TJ Miller, James Corden, Anna Faris, Maya Rudolph, Patrick Stewart
● Watch on: Netflix

NOW STREAMING

Zee5: ₹99 per month
Amazon Prime: ₹129 per month
Netflix: ₹199 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹399 per year

Lockdown lessons: Sending discipline out of Microsoft windows

OPEN SPACE
Gulnaar Mirza
Associate Editor

The unthinkable is happening. There's a teacher in the bedroom. And she quoth Shakespeare. Actually, there are more – they materialise at the appointed hour, and then vanish... reminding one of Eliot's "In the room the women come and go/ Talking of Michelangelo..." and Marx and market forces.

The boy for whose benefit this eclectic knowledge is being imparted, lies supine, often bare torso, one eye determinedly shut, as the lesson drones on. Yours truly, having repeatedly failed to set the boy upright, gesticulates wildly. The mic is on mute, but something (maybe a long-ago instilled deference) silences one when a teacher is speaking. In the frenzy of sign language, the threat of violence hangs heavy in the room. The boy will, eventually, shake off the stupor and crawl out of bed, wash up and crawl back into his comfort zone.

Welcome to the new-age cool school, to distance learning, which sent discipline right out of Microsoft windows.

I can't make up my mind whether this is a welcome break, or a complete breakdown of the tried, tested and accepted way of school life. For one, harried moms are spared the rigid routine: no 6.05 alarm, no rush hour in the kitchen, no fretting whether the sandwiches are soggy, the pasta too leaky and other trifling worries like missing breakfast. No mad scramble for missing socks, ties, badges, pens, and coming upon damp/ dirty uniforms, *kora kaagaz* notebooks and pending projects. Then literally pushing out the young one through the door – and at times flinging

his shoes after him. Sigh! I'm beginning to miss the comic mornings.

These are days of leisurely breakfasts: Teachers and students munch through class (the teacher takes pains to say she missed it earlier; the kids don't bother with such niceties). Some barely respond to the roll call, others claim their mics have an issue, and there is the regular "network issues" excuse for delayed assignments.

Teachers, too, must have given up trying to instil long-distance discipline, and must sorely miss their chalk missiles. No point sending the children out of class either... they are already out. I commiserate with these Miss Janakis as they strive to understand students who are just voices and DPs, and they know they have little control. An impersonal relationship in a very personal setting.

Sometimes, I have caught the boy on the terrace with the dog, playing hooky from a commerce lesson, secure in the knowledge that the lecture was recorded. He lets out a plaintive, "But I want to play..." Which makes me realise that kids must miss playgrounds, morning assembly and plain childish pranks. There are pluses too: class notes and assignments are accessible to all, and not left to a child's whimsical memory.

Yet, I realise I am a hardened old-timer, and prefer the school diary, books bound in brown paper, kids in crisp uniforms and sparkling shoes. The singlet-and-shorts look is sheer blasphemy. And as school life lurches ahead, willy-nilly, there is a niggling realisation that out there are millions of kids who will fall by the wayside without access to laptops and data, and ill-equipped to handle digital challenges. In an already divided India, the chasm grows wider.



Japanese wines with their delicate taste pair well with flavoursome South Indian dishes, says KATSUMASA MARUO, while taking us on a virtual tour of vineyards in the Land of the Rising Sun

The writer is Deputy Consul-General, Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru

TASTE OF THE ORIENT

Japanese wine, I thought, I would miss most when I moved to Bengaluru in July last year. But much to my surprise, I found a lot of similarity between wine, like Nagano from Japan, and ones available in Bengaluru. Here, there are two popular wineries, Grover Zampa and Kadu, which brew good Indian brands of wine. It may sound off-beat, but according to me they pair well with South Indian dishes and snacks, like Mangalore Vada and Kod-bale. I say this only after having tried it out at the wineries.

Japanese wine is brewed using local-produced grapes. They are made from a wide variety of grapes, including raw eatable grapes and wine grapes. The wine has a delicate taste, which of course goes well Japa-

nese and western dishes. Our wine pairs particularly well with fish – pomfret tawa fry), which also includes the Indian preparation styles.

Grapes used for brewing Japanese wine can be divided into two main categories. One, that is cultivated in Japan for a long time, or grapes developed in Japan. The major ones are Muscat Berry A for red wine and Koshu for white wine. The other category are grapes which are imported from Europe and the United States, which have come to be able to grow in Japan after much trial and error. The main breeds are Merlot for red wine, Chardonnay for white wine, and Delaware from North America.

Japanese wine is produced across the country but the main production regions are Hokkaido, Yamagata Prefec-



ture, Nagano Prefecture, and Yamanashi Prefecture. In Hokkaido, where the climate is cool, grapes are mainly cultivated in the western Shiribeshi region, the Sorachi/Kamikawa region, including Furano, and the Tokachi region in the eastern region. Wine is mainly produced from North American varieties there.

In Yamagata Prefecture, grapes are mainly cultivated in the southeastern Yamagata basin, Okitama basin (Yonezawa city is famous for beef), and the southern Shonai plain, which faces the Sea of Japan. Muscat Berry A, Delaware, Chardonnay, etc. are cultivated there.

In Nagano Prefecture, wine grapes are mainly produced in three areas, and the cultivar differs in each area. Chardonnay is famous in the Chikuma River basin in the northeast. The Matsumoto Basin (including Matsumoto city famous for the castle) in the central part is home to excellent wineries of Sauvignon Blanc, derived from Europe. In Kikuyohara (around Shiojiri City), just on the south of Matsumoto basin, particularly good Merlot is cultivated.

Yamanashi prefecture is where the most wine is brewed in Japan. The production areas are concentrated in the Kofu basin in the central part of Japan, where Muscat Berry A, Koshu, and Delaware are mainly cultivated. On the other hand, in the northwest area, wine is brewed from varieties of grapes derived from Europe such as Chardonnay, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

There are several good Japanese restaurants in Bengaluru, Matsuri and Azuki, which I frequent regularly. Every time I miss home, I go back to these places to enjoy some sake, which is getting popular among Bengaliureans, as the network of Japanese in the city has been growing. In fact, at programmes organised by our Consulate, we have served a sampling of sake, which has got a good response. Japanese wine has a fruity taste, which is similar to that of Bengaluru wine. I'm hoping more varieties are available in Bengaluru soon-er than later.

SAUMYA R CHAWLA
@pixie.secrets
The writer loves to over-share, drink wine & watch period dramas

You know those days when all you want to do is curl up into a bowl of garlic chicken and ice cream and cry? (I'm not currently accepting any comments on the menu choice). Or in my case, a decade of that? As some of you may already know, I'm the unofficial authority on all stripes of crying – everything from the graceful single tear in public, to noisy bawling sessions.

I've been a crier since I can remember. One of my earliest cry-baby memories are from when I visited my grandparents when I was little. It was during this trip that I learned that my grandmother was actually my father's mom. You see, up until that moment I always figured that my mother was everyone's mother... my fa-



For glycerine and cry babies

ther's included. It was too much for me to handle.

There's a lot of things that I don't fully understand, and most of them make me cry. This is probably why I've never really been able to fathom why people use glycerine to induce tears. I mean, all you have to do is just THINK about Bambi! Besides, why use glycerine for fake tears when

there's so many other incredible ways to use it?

It's often the complicated sounding, exotic-looking ingredients that get us most excited; but perhaps, it's time we realise that the answer to hydrated skin has been in front of us all along: glycerine. It's a super powerful humectant, protects the skin and prevents moisture-loss. It's also one of the saf-

est ingredients in skincare, non-allergenic and suitable for acne-prone skin.

It's gotten a bit of a bad rep over the years for reasons I don't fully understand. My lovely readers, this may have a bit of a DIY feel to it: but I urge you to buy a jar of organic glycerine. Mix it in with some grape-seed or castor oil with it to apply on cracked heels and dried hands. It essentially creates a layer of moisture similar to what Hyaluronic Acid does.

Similar to hyaluronic acid, glycerin by itself is a humectant: which means that it should not be used by itself; especially in very dry climates/ weather. It essentially pulls in moisture from where it can get it – be it the air or your skin. This means that it can pull moisture from deeper layers of your skin/hair, causing blistering and very brittle hair. Using HA or glycerine-based products on slightly damp skin might be a good way to make sure that your skin isn't getting overwhelmed. Cry babies of the world, our glycerine-coated chariot awaits! More anon.

CITY READ

Kuchipudi exponents come live on Oct 31

Non-profit trust Kuchipudi Parampara Foundation presents the seventh edition of Natya Parampara Utsav on October 31. The event will be live streamed on the foundation's Youtube channel, Facebook page and Instagram account. Some performances will be in honour of senior Kuchipudi Guru Pasumarthi Keshavprasad. Dancer Mamatha Karanth will perform followed by solos by dance scholars from different parts of the world. Kuchipudi exponent Guru Sailaja will be speaking at the event. The event is curated by Sashindran, founder of the trust.



ILLUSTRATION: TAPAS RANJAN



LOVEOLOGY
Mahesh Natarajan

Every other fairy tale one reads as a child starts with those promising words, "Once upon a time," and almost all of them inevitably end with the line, "And they lived happily ever after. The End." The seeds of the idea of a single, forever relationship are planted deep in our psyche from the very first stories we hear, no matter where the accident of birth has placed us – whether it is in a vast urban slum, or a palatial bungalow, or out in the hills in a hut in a tribe far removed from the royalty and the brave and the beautiful that dot the Western fairy tales. Whatever the linguistic heritage one comes into, the stories one hears as a child end largely in that happily ever after...

Is the happily-ever-after a myth? Ask around. You might hear a "every family has its own stories," or "we have had our share of ups and downs,"

THE FOREVER TRAP

or more colourful expressions of the same sentiment. Back where I grew up, a popular saying was something like, "House after house, a different hearth," hinting that the steps and stones might be different from house to house, but there is just no house without an entrance to it or problems in it. Even the Buddha is said to have asked a grieving parent to get a fistful of mustard from a home that had only experienced this happily ever after and the Buddha would resurrect the dead child, only for them to realise that loss and pain is universal.

Even if we grew on the strictest diet of Disney and other candied sweetness, we know in our hearts that there is no forever in which to be happy together with the love we find. Love itself is not forever, but ebbs and flows, fades in and out, elusive. We love and feel love, sometimes to the fullness of our hearts, brimming over and at other times, we are empty, having nothing to give or re-

ceiving nothing, drifting through nights just existing.

Some of us choose to wait and strive to get that love back, sure as the day is bright, that love might wax and wane, but it always is there, like a moon behind monsoon clouds, never quite sure whether it is waxing or waning. It might be true, but it could just as well be fruitless – like the parrot that waits for the silk-cotton pod to ripen, only to have it burst and fly away. When the flames of the love we held begin to flicker and fade, it is never quite easy to tell what we should do. Should we try and resuscitate it and get the flames roaring again? Or let it die? Do we hold on to this one love forever, or can we let the idea of love cycle through our lives, to fade in and out? Should we make this one love last forever happily or not, or can we trust we will find happiness with or without it?

(The writer is a counsellor with Innersight)

SMART ADS

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

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Southend circle: 080-26654645/46

RR nagar: 9845421111

Mahalakshmi Layout: 9986393316

Wanting a quiet celebration, the actor has requested fans not to gather outside his residence, and instead send him wishes from wherever they are



A still from Pogaru

DHRUVA SARJA TO SPEND BIRTHDAY ON SETS OF *POGARU*

CE Features

It's a working birthday for Dhruva Sarja who turns a year older on October 6. The actor will be spending his special day on the sets of *Pogaru*, and completing the shoot of the pending introductory song, *Pogaru Annanige Pogaru*. The actor took to social media, where he expressed his desire of not wanting to celebrate his birthday this year and requested fans not to gather in front of his house. Instead, he suggested they wish him from wherever they are. *CE* got hold of a fresh still from

Pogaru, which shows Dhruva shaking a leg for the opening song, the music of which is scored by Chandan Shetty, and choreographed by Murali Master in his signature style. Joining the Action Prince were junior dancers, who have participated in the shoots on a grand set created at HMT by art director Mohan B Kere.

The film, directed by Nanda Kishore, will be completing the shooting of the track in two days, and will be heading for a few days of patchwork. Bankrolled by BK Gangahdar, the film has Rashmika Mandanna playing the fe-

male lead, along with Dhananjay who features in a prominent role.

The film also comprises Mayuri, Ravi Shankar, Chikkanna, and Kuri Pratap, as well as international bodybuilders Kai Greene, Morgan Aste, Johan Lucas, and Jo Linder in the climax shot.

Post *Pogaru*, Nanda Kishore and Dhruva will collaborate for another film, which will be produced by Uday K Mehta. The script, which is now in the final stages, is likely to go on floors after the *muhurath*, which is planned for Vijayadashmi festival.

IT IS NOTHING GREAT TO BE A HERO IN MOVIES: JAGAPATHI BABU

In a freewheeling chat with *CE*, the actor who is currently in Mysuru shooting for Mahesh Kumar's *Madagaja*, tells us how he's bouncing back post the lockdown, his bonds with the fraternity and his hope for the future

A Sharadhaa

Respective of whichever language or project he is part of, Jagapathi Babu has always added value to the end product. The actor, who has predominantly worked in Telugu and Tamil, is slowly developing a strong bond with Kannada too. "I have started enjoying working in Kannada more, and I'm learning the language now. I am going to start dubbing with *Robbert*," says Jagapathi, who is currently in Mysuru shooting for Mahesh Kumar's *Madagaja*. Jagapathi is teaming up with producer Umapathy Gowda for the second time through this project.

CE caught up with the actor for a conversation, where he talked about his love for Bengaluru city, learning Kannada, finding a friend in Darshan, the pandemic, and his Bollywood prospects.

Excerpts

'My affection for Bengaluru is from the time I was a student in Chennai'

"As a student, I would live in Chennai, and would travel to Bengaluru every other week. I would take the Bangalore Mail and leave by the Brindavan Train in the morning. I wanted to be here even if I got to spend just two to three hours in the city. I would spend the summer holidays here because my aunt and uncle live here. My affection towards the city is from then, says the actor, who makes a special mention about Kannada people. "Basically Kannada people are very innocent, and they have a pure fascination about stardom," says Jagapathi. He further says that actor Rakshita has been a 'godmother' and guide for him.

'I go with producer Umapathy for his judgement and taste'

After *Robbert*, Jagapathi Babu is teaming up with producer Umapathy for *Madagaja*. "There are other projects which were offered, but I couldn't take up because of date issues. But with Umapathy, what I found is, he is good with his work. As a producer, he spends where he has to

spend, and at the same time, he is hands-on with the project," says Jagapathi, adding, "His banner and he will grow. I would go with him for his judgement and taste, and his sincerity towards his projects."

'I'm much older than Darshan, but we both are friends'

Jagapathi says that actor Darshan with whom he has associated with *Robbert* has been very sweet to him. "Although both Darshan and me aren't exactly the talkative kind, we gelled well," says the actor, adding, "I

talk less, and my conversation with people is only when I have something to talk about. I don't force myself to talk. He was initially to himself, and with time, we bonded. Though I am much older than him, I would say we both are friends. I have heard of his good nature and service-oriented mindset. Also, I have just started interacting with Sriimurali, and he is also a sweet person. Generally, I don't have issues with anybody unless they act up bad. Some people get carried away and act up and I don't like talking to them," he mentions.

Take on pandemic, and its impact on entertainment

"Pandemic may come and go, but we need to move forward. Of course, we need to follow the government rules and be cautious. Till lockdown was relaxed, we did not get out of our houses. One can't get scared and sit at home, all our life. Secondly, this is not something, which we will know whether it will get over in 2 to 3 months. So, I say, when it comes it comes. Till now, I don't have it, so that's good," says the actor for whom cinema is not just entertainment but is a mag-

ic world that people won't let go of cinema that easily. "Maybe a big screen or a small screen may take over; but cinema will go on and nothing will stop. I have signed 19 films and have been working from Sept. 2 every day in small gaps. I have been travelling to different cities juggling with various projects. I have mingled with at least 7,000 people. Touchwood, I'm still surviving. If you get it, just rest for two weeks, you will be fine. That's the way we have to take it," adds the actor who feels relaxed after the six-month break. "It was a proper holiday, which I couldn't take normally and I could get a chance to do a lot of Yoga and meditation. I found time to discover myself more, and it has helped me to behave myself even better—in every which way, I conditioned myself, and realised it is all in the mind. I enjoyed my time at home, and now I'm enjoying my time at the sets."

Anticipating good times come later

The 125-odd-films old actor is happy that his career in Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada took off after a while. "My initial films flopped. Life is like that, and that's a good thing. I prefer a good time to come later than a bad time. If I hadn't had the flops at the end of my career as a hero, I wouldn't have landed the variety of roles I'm doing right now. Everything happens for the good," says Jagapathi, who was reminded of his conversation with Amitabh Bachchan during the making of Chiranjeevi's *Sye Raa*. "I told him that we have a very similar journey—the initial flops, voices being rejected, having a slew of hits, bankruptcy, and then making it to small screens. To which, he mentioned that's the way life has to be, and only then we can learn, which is very true," says Jagapathi, who said that his first two films in Kannada didn't do that well, and he is now looking forward to *Robbert*, which will be a sure-shot hit, and followed by *Madagaja*. "I liked the way *Robbert* director Tharun Kishore Sudhir handled the project, and the camerawork of Sudhakar S Raj is something to watch out."

Hero is meant to be in real, not on screen

Jagapathi is enjoying this phase of his career, where he is getting to explore a variety of roles, and enabled him to be an actor which he wouldn't have enjoyed as a hero. "I am certainly enjoying playing various roles. I will be responsible as an actor, but not entirely responsible for the final product. Earlier, there was a time, I would return the money to producers when they would say they were in trouble. I don't have that issue now. I am an actor, not a hero," says Jagapathi, who thinks it is more important to be a hero in real life than in reel life. "Nothing great to be a hero in movies. The various characters have enabled me to explore with various directors and top actors from every industry, which is something I wouldn't have got if I remained as a hero," says Jagapathi, who mentions a prospective Bollywood foray by the end of this year of 2021

Akshay Kumar makes an impression as an '80s RAW agent



A still from Bell Bottom

CE Features

The teaser for Akshay Kumar-starrer *Bellbottom* in out. Film directed by Ranjit B Tiwari, the espionage thriller is set for release on April 2, 2021. The film also stars Vaani Kapoor, Lara Dutta and Huma Qureshi.

The 30-second teaser features Akshay—in smooth navy bell-bottoms and suit—strutting his way toward a plane. There are shots of the actor at a massive air hangar, revealing the aviation-world backdrop of the film.

Later, we see Akshay hanging off a tanker truck, recalling his heyday as Bollywood's acest stuntman.

Bellbottom was among the first films to resume production in a foreign location post the lockdown. The film was shot in the UK following standard guidelines. "Shot in the highlands of Scotland, Pooja Entertainment's *Bellbottom* has Akshay Kumar in the lead playing a RAW agent on the trail of a mystery and the film's retro theme brings back the eighties," the makers shared.

Kangana Ranaut resumes *Thalaivi* shooting, shares stills from film set

CE Features

Actress Kangana Ranaut is happy to be back on a film set after her lockdown break.

On Monday, she shared pictures from the set of her upcoming film *Thalaivi*. In the stills, she is seen conversing with director A.L Vijay.

"These are some stills from yesterday's early morning scene discussion with my absolutely talented and most affectionate director A.L Vijay ji, there are many amazing places in this world but the most soothing and comforting to me is a film set," she tweeted.

Thalaivi is a biopic of late Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa. The film will release in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.

Kangana Ranaut

